



**ACTIVE COVID CASES
LOWEST IN 260 DAYS**

India saw a single-day rise of 10,853 Covid-19 infections, which took the country's total tally of cases to 3,43,55,536, while active cases have declined to 1,44,845, the lowest in 260 days, according to Union Health Ministry data on Sunday. The toll has climbed to 4,60,791 with 526 more fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am. The daily rise in infections has been below 20,000 for 30 straight days.



Om Shri Gurubasavalingaya Namaha
HIREMATH SAMSTHAN VIDYAPEETH TRUST(R), BHALKI

**DR. CHANNABASAVESHWAR GURUKUL
RESIDENTIAL PU SCIENCE COLLEGE, KARDYAL**

TQ. BHALKI - DIST. BIDAR - 585 413 - KARNATAKA - www.cbgurukul.in



GURUKUL STUDENTS MAKES A BIG SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT IN

**NEET RESULTS-2021
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOPPERS**



**BASAVAPRAGNYA
675**



**BHIMASHANKAR
675**



**BALGANESHA
633**



**RAHUL
626**



**MARUTI
602**



**SHASHIDHAR
594**



**SAHANA
591**



**NAGRAJ
591**



**SAKLESH
587**



**SHIVALEELA
585**



**RITESH
584**



**ABHISHEK
580**



**SANGASHETTY
577**



**CHANNABASAVA
572**



**SATAVEER
572**



**ANKIT
570**



**VINEET
565**



**RAKSHITA
565**



**RAHUL
562**



**ABHISHEK
561**



**GAURISH
561**



**SAGAR
559**



**RAKSHITA
555**



**SHIVAM
553**



**VAISHNAVI
550**



**JYOTI
547**



**NIKITA
545**



**AISHWARYA
545**



**VINAYAK
541**



**TUSHAR
541**



**SIDDESHWAR
540**



**BHAVANI
539**



**CHAITRA
538**



**SHREYA
538**



**PRAJWAL
538**



**SHRINIVAS
536**



**PRANALI
535**



**SUDEEP
535**



**REVANSIDDU
535**



**TULJESHWARI
535**



**GURUNATH
533**



**AMISHA
528**



**SOUNDARYA
528**



**SAGAR
526**



**KUNTI
526**



**ASHWINI
525**



**SAHANA
525**



**SANTOSH
522**



**DIKSHA
516**



**NEHA
513**



**MANISH
505**



**VINOD
506**



**SHRUTI
506**



**YASH
503**



**MAHENDRA
500**



**ANKITA
500**



**CHANDRASHEKHAR
500**



**VINOD
500**



**ABHILASH
500**



**BASAVA
500**



**SWATI
498**



**SHWETA
498**



**SACHIN
498**



**MALLIKARJUN
498**



**KRISHNA
496**



**BHARATKUMAR
496**



**BHAGYASHREE
495**



**CHANDRAKANT
495**



**VAISHNAVI
492**



**TRUPTI
491**



**SACHIN
491**



**SHIVANAND
490**



**MAHALAXMI
489**



**ATTAR
488**



**SHWETA
486**



**KAVVA
486**



**RACHANA
486**



**ANANYA
484**



**SUPREET
484**



**NIKITA
484**



**PARAMESH
480**



**GIRIRAJ
480**

JEE (ADVANCED) IIT-2021



**CHETAN M. MAHADEV
IIT-MUMBAI**



**KEDAR B.
IIT-HYDRABAD**



**AMBIKA P.
IIT-DHANABAD**



**PREMKUMAR MANJUNATH
IIT-KHARGPUR**



**SHRIDHAR R.
NIT-SURATKAL**



**VINOD S.
IIT-DHANABAD**



**NAGRAJ H.
IIT-DHANABAD**



**RONAK R.
IIT-DHANABAD**

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR LONG TERM NEET/JEE/IIT - 2021-2022
For More Details Contact: 8147740402/7353304503/02

NEET RESULT ABSTRACT - 2021

650 to 675 - 02
600 to 649 - 03
550 to 599 - 31
500 to 549 - 24
480 to 499 - 22
450 to 479 - 50
400 to 449 - 67



RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED
Branch Office: Reliance Home Finance limited, No.39, FFK Towers 2nd Floor, 30th Cross Road, Tilak Nagar, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560029
Corporate & Registered Office:- Reliance Home Finance, Ruby Tower, 11th Floor, North West Wing, Plot No.29, J.K.Sawant Marg, Dadar, Mumbai-400028

SALE CUM AUCTION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer (AO) of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHF), invites tenders/Quotations for purchase of the properties specified below of the below mentioned Borrowers, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of secured debts as mentioned herein-below along with interest and costs, etc. of RHF. The Properties are proposed to be sold on "As is Where is" and "As is Whatever there is basis" and on without recourse basis.

S. No	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Guarantors	Outstanding due for Recovery of which property is being sold	Reserve Price (RP), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Date of Inspection.	Date, Time & Venue of Auction/opening quotations /bids
1	1) Hi Life Ventures Private Limited Having Residence At: 48/1 Sarjapur Hoddiddapura Bangalore Kamata-560035 2) Samareddy Prasad Reddy Having Residence At: 24/7261 Magurite Layout, Nelore Andhra Pradesh-524003 3) Konduru Chandramohan Reddy Having Residence At: Hi Life Greens Sy No.137/1 195/5 4 S Municipal No. 256 Ward No. 149 Varthur Hobli Gunjur Village Bangalore Kamata-560087	Rs.17,38,14,107/- (Rupees Seventeen Crore Thirty Eight Lakhs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred And Seven Only) As On 03rd November 2021	Reserve Price: Rs.97,46,12,363/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Crore Forty Six Lakh Twelve Thousand Three Hundred And Sixty Three Only) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 9,74,61,237/- Inspection Date: 13th December 2021 Between 11.00 A.M. To 5.00 P.M.	15th December 2021 At 12.00 P.M. Reliance Home Finance Limited, No.39, FFK Towers, 2nd Floor, 30th Cross Road, Tilak Nagar, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029

Property / Security Interest Details:-

THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN HI LIFE GREENS SY NOS.137/1 195/5 4 S, PLOT No. -4/1004, A/1006 A/101, A/102, A/204, A/205 A/206 A/301, A/302, A/304 A/305, A/404, A/405, A/406, A/407, A/408 A/409, A/410, A/411, A/412, A/413, A/414, A/415, A/416, A/417, A/418, A/419, A/420, A/421, A/422, A/423, A/424, A/425, A/426, A/427, A/428, A/429, A/430, A/431, A/432, A/433, A/434, A/435, A/436, A/437, A/438, A/439, A/440, A/441, A/442, A/443, A/444, A/445, A/446, A/447, A/448, A/449, A/450, A/451, A/452, A/453, A/454, A/455, A/456, A/457, A/458, A/459, A/460, A/461, A/462, A/463, A/464, A/465, A/466, A/467, A/468, A/469, A/470, A/471, A/472, A/473, A/474, A/475, A/476, A/477, A/478, A/479, A/480, A/481, A/482, A/483, A/484, A/485, A/486, A/487, A/488, A/489, A/490, A/491, A/492, A/493, A/494, A/495, A/496, A/497, A/498, A/499, A/500, A/501, A/502, A/503, A/504, A/505, A/506, A/507, A/508, A/509, A/510, A/511, A/512, A/513, A/514, A/515, A/516, A/517, A/518, A/519, A/520, A/521, A/522, A/523, 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A/953, A/954, A/955, A/956, A/957, A/958, A/959, A/960, A/961, A/962, A/963, A/964, A/965, A/966, A/967, A/968, A/969, A/970, A/971, A/972, A/973, A/974, A/975, A/976, A/977, A/978, A/979, A/980, A/981, A/982, A/983, A/984, A/985, A/986, A/987, A/988, A/989, A/990, A/991, A/992, A/993, A/994, A/995, A/996, A/997, A/998, A/999, A/1000, A/1001, A/1002, A/1003, A/1004, A/1005, A/1006, A/1007, A/1008, A/1009, A/1010, A/1011, A/1012, A/1013, A/1014, A/1015, A/1016, A/1017, A/1018, A/1019, A/1020, A/1021, A/1022, A/1023, A/1024, A/1025, A/1026, A/1027, A/1028, A/1029, A/1030, A/1031, A/1032, A/1033, A/1034, A/1035, A/1036, A/1037, A/1038, A/1039, A/1040, A/1041, A/1042, A/1043, A/1044, A/1045, A/1046, A/1047, A/1048, A/1049, A/1050, A/1051, A/1052, A/1053, A/1054, A/1055, A/1056, A/1057, A/1058, A/1059, A/1060, A/1061, A/1062, A/1063, A/1064, A/1065, A/1066, A/1067, A/1068, A/1069, A/1070, A/1071, A/1072, A/1073, A/1074, A/1075, A/1076, A/1077, A/1078, A/1079, A/1080, A/1081, A/1082, A/1083, 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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • NOVEMBER 08, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION



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INDIA PART OF COP26 PLEDGES ON ECO-FRIENDLY FARMING

27 nations committed to making farming more sustainable and less polluting, and to investing in agricultural science

AIDING SHIFT TO LOW-CARBON PRACTICES

Changes to agricultural policies could have significant impact on India's economy as 20% of GDP comes from farming, which also employs a huge chunk of the workforce. While the COP26 statement did not specify India's pledges, it described govt schemes in Brazil and the UK to help farmers transition to low-carbon practices as being aligned with the agenda

AUSTRALIA, GERMANY & UK SIGN UP TOO

To have any hope of keeping global warming in check, we need to use land sustainably, said Alok Sharma, the COP26 president
Others besides India to sign up to the action plan include Australia, Uganda, Madagascar, Tanzania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Lesotho, Laos, Indonesia, Guinea, Ghana, Germany and the UK

2nd

WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN TODAY
AT THE COP26 SUMMIT IN GLASGOW

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALIGUDE • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

TESTS CONDUCTED					
Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6
73,924	60,711	76,420	53,488	80,145	59,144

State losing grip on Covid fight?

Despite Deepavali, Puneeth's funeral, bypolls, test numbers go down

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@ Bengaluru

DESPITE increased crowding and celebrations of Kannada Rajyotsava and Deepavali, the by-polls, and the massive crowds during the funeral of Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar, tests to keep a strict vigil on the spread of Covid-19 have been on the decline in November.

Not once have the tests touched the 1 lakh mark in the last six days of this month, while most days of October saw tests crossing 1 lakh and even going as high as 1.6 lakh.

The daily tests have been ranging between 53,488 and 80,145 between Monday and Saturday — even as Covid curfew restrictions have been completely lifted, which is leading to more people coming together for a longer duration giving scope for another surge in Covid cases.

One of the reasons for this is hesitancy among people to get

tested during random testing drives, owing to a decline in Covid cases, besides larger numbers being vaccinated, said Dr CN Manjunath, nodal officer of Covid testing and member of Covid Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). "Earlier, the daily tests ranged between 1.5 lakh and 1.75 lakh. We need to test at least 1 lakh per day due to crowding that has happened this month, along with the reopening of schools. The state has to reiterate that more wtests need to be done, as it is the only way to break the chain. Hopefully, it should pick up as we have enough capacity to do it," said Dr Manjunath, also the Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

Admitting that given the recent events this month, there is a logical need to conduct more random tests, Randeep D, Karnataka Health Commissioner, said that they plan to address the issue. **P5**

BJP looks to name voter list page in-charges in all booths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE BJP on Sunday set ambitious targets for expansion of its footprint across the country, specially in places where it is out of power. It announced the setting up of booth committees in all 10,40,000 polling booths, and deploying *panna pramukhs*

(in-charge of each page of the voter list) there. In Gujarat, the party had created *panna pramukh* committees in every booth apart from booth committees, which helped it mobilise voters during elections.

The party also decided to institutionalise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat* in every booth in the next six

months by making arrangements for its relay.

The decisions were taken at the BJP's national executive meeting, which was held for the first time after Covid struck. Briefing journalists later, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said booth committees will be set up by December 25, *panna* committees by April 6 next

year, and institutionalisation of *Mann Ki Baat* at the booth level by May 2022.

Modi, who addressed the val- edictory session, urged the cadre to become a "bridge of faith" between the party and the common man and expressed confidence that the BJP will win the trust of the people in the upcoming polls in five states.

In his inaugural address, BJP chief JP Nadda reiterated predecessor Amit Shah's earlier observation that the party's peak is yet to come and that it has to expand in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana. The party, however, sought comfort in the recent Telangana bypoll, where the BJP defeated the TRS.



FLOODED CITY

Chennai and its suburbs were pounded by heavy overnight rain, leading to water-logging, on Sunday | **R SATISH BABU | P7**

EXPRESS READ

2 ministers demand Padma Shri for Puneeth

Bengaluru: The state cabinet on Monday may take up the issue of recommending late actor Puneeth Rajkumar's name for Padma Shri. Both Agriculture Minister BC Patil and Tourism Minister Anand Singh on Sunday demanded that the award be presented posthumously to the actor, who passed away at the age of 46 on October 29 | **P6**

Kiwis in, Kohli-Shastri era ends sans ICC title

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

IT WAS all but over the moment India lost to the two strongest teams — Pakistan and New Zealand — in a relatively easy Group 2 of the T20 World Cup. On Sunday, New Zealand ensured there was no parting gift for coach, Ravi Shastri, and outgoing T20I captain, Virat Kohli as they entered semifinals after beating Afghanistan. Kohli-Shastri era has ended without an ICC title to show.

For a team that was considered favourites, that India had to rely on net run-rate and other teams' outcomes to get into the semifinals showed how they lost the plot too early. India's match against Namibia on Monday is inconsequential.

Despite having the most popular, competitive and cash-rich franchise T20 tournament, IPL, they have not been able to play the aggressive brand of cricket, which is the norm in the format. They have lot to catch up in a format where England and Pakistan are miles ahead of them.

While toss did play a role in their defeats to Pakistan and New Zealand, it is worth pointing out they played bad cricket, especially on the batting front. Even team selections were questionable at times. "There's no excuse. We should have done better. We should have batted better. And also the first match we had a chance to defend our total. But we looked a little below par," said India's bowling coach Bharat Arun. **P15**

ANOTHER SCARE Fire breaks out at Shivamogga hosp, none hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

A fire accident was reported at the labour and gynaecology emergency ward at McGann Hospital here on Sunday evening. No one was injured in the incident.

Sources from the Fire and Emergency Services said that the accident was due to a short-circuit in an air-conditioner installed at the ICU. The staff of the hospital shifted women and newborn babies from the ICU and ward immediately after the incident. Smoke had engulfed the ward, and the fire was put out by the fire and emergency services personnel.



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*Vikram Hospital, Bengaluru





Department of Women and Child Development

Re-opening of ANGANWADI CENTRES across Karnataka from 8th Nov. 2021



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister



RE-OPENING OF ANGANWADI CENTRES



Shri Achar Halappa Basappa, Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Aabled & Senior Citizens participated in Poshan Abhiyana programme.



CHILDREN

Welcome back to the world of PLAYING, LEARNING and ENJOYING.



To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.

Faulty underpass gets waterlogged

Closed for 8 months; commute tough for residents of Kasturi Nagar and Vijnapura

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of Kasturi Nagar and Vijnapura, heading to Old Madras Road via Tin Factory, have been struggling to commute for the past eight months due to a closed underpass in the area. The reasons: Heavy waterlogging in the underpass and repeated futile efforts by the BBMP to permanently clear it.



A view of the waterlogged underpass in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

The issue boils down to a design flaw in the underpass, which is constructed at a higher level, forcing water to stagnate there instead of flowing past.

Sivaraman Hariharan, a resident here and an Aam Aadmi Party leader, told TNIE, "The FCI godown subway is submerged in rainwater most of

the time. It has a faulty design, no proper drain to flush out water to nearby Benniganahalli lake. Complaints have been repeatedly raised in the BBMP Sahaya portal."

Vinu Thomas, past president of Purva Midtown Residents' Association, told TNIE that the public is either forced to go through many interior roads in their area to reach Old Madras Road or take a detour via Ring Road. "The issue was taken up six years ago by Kasturi Nagar Residents' Association and others. BBMP decided to build a sump at the underpass but that didn't work out. So they hit upon a proposal to build two

sumps here so that water can be drained. The subway has been closed for a long time."

Despite this, a few two-wheeler riders try to make their way through the underpass at great personal risk, he added.

Nagabhushana, BBMP ward engineer, said work was in progress at the subway. He said it belonged to the Major Roads department in BBMP. An engineer in this department claimed that the road would be opened to traffic in a day or two. "Due to rain, road work could not be completed as planned. It is under completion, and the underpass will be opened to the public soon," he said.

CM reviews projects, wants Metro work expedited

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai late on Sunday evening held a meeting with top officials to review the progress of Mission 2022.

He advised them to ensure better management of roads in the central business district, and to improve traffic flow. He directed officials to take the necessary steps, and said a separate meeting will be held to review the Smart City project.

Bommai said the Namma Metro Rail project has to be completed one year ahead of schedule, and directed the authorities to expedite work and

take up all necessary preparatory work.

The Suburban Rail Project is an ambitious project of the Central and State governments, and covers a distance of 15.40km, for which land has to be acquired. Bommai proposed that the land acquisition process be accelerated through KIADB.

Under the 100 Waterway Project, he directed officials to ensure that drainage water does not enter canals. He directed officials to develop 25 lakes at an estimated cost of Rs 128 crore, and said it has to be completed by the end of January. He also suggested developing lakes and putting up a green fence around them.



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai holds a meeting of Bengaluru Mission 2022 in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS



BREATHLESS

A cloud of dust veils a stretch of Bannerghatta Road in Bengaluru, due to infrastructure-related work, on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Low fuel allowance, bad work conditions irk delivery execs

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

WHILE delivery executives around Bengaluru are struggling with the rise in fuel prices, they are also affected by food delivery companies not accounting for the price rise, and even cutting allowances during the pandemic.

Shaik Salauddeen, National General Secretary, the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT) spoke to *The New Indian Express*, highlighting the issues that delivery executives are currently facing. He mentioned that though the price of fuel had skyrocketed over the years, measures had not been taken to account

for it. "But food delivery companies like Swiggy and Zomato have cut daily fuel allowances due to the pandemic," he said.

Issues faced by delivery executives in Bengaluru are numerous. From being accosted, to getting fined for frivolous reasons, delivery executives find it difficult to air their grievances to their respective companies. "Whenever we try to tell the company to adjust to the rising prices, they refuse or just ignore us," said a delivery executive working for Swiggy.

Another big issue that they currently face, said Salauddeen, is a rise in accidents owing to decreasing delivery time promised by the companies. "They

keep saying 15-minute and 10-minute deliveries, but how are they supposed to cope? They're given no security, their compensation is only Rs 1 lakh, but hospital bills climb higher than that," he said.

Various executives have voiced multiple complaints on the companies making them work through bad weather conditions, and sometimes, for as long as 15 hours a day for very little incentive.

Recently, a few companies have started advertising 10-minute deliveries, with executives citing concerns. While two of the major companies, Swiggy and Zomato, could not be reached for comment,

Salauddeen mentioned that current petrol allowances had been reduced from Rs 35/km to Rs 20/km during the pandemic, and had not risen since. Meanwhile, a delivery executive who works for one of the companies in Bengaluru said that he only got a daily fuel allowance of Rs 250, having to dip into his own salary to pay for fuel.

Meanwhile, IFAT had

filed a PIL in the Supreme Court in September to allow for social security benefits for gig workers, as well as holding the companies accountable.



Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

08th November: People talk about the Monday-morning blues. I have no idea why, except that blue means to feel down, as in blues music. But I wonder if there's a more ancient connection: the Moon is traditionally a 'water' planet, the sea is blue - and so on, if you know what I mean. Anyway, I hope you don't have the blues!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You cannot help but bring the changes in the romantic arena. What you need in terms of affection, and who you want it from, will be different now from what it was this time last year. Remember that other people may not yet be ready to come up with the goods.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You should say what needs to be said now, while you still have time. This is not to say that if you leave it till the end of the week it will be too late, only that right now you don't actually have to know what you're talking about, which is rather convenient!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

A snap decision may be vital if you are to take full advantage of prosperous financial possibilities. The relevant celestial influences overlap very briefly, so your sense of timing will have to be impeccable if you are to snap up a bargain. Stick to your high standards, though.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If charms called for don't sit on the fence while life passes you by. Get out there now, smile sweetly, but your eyes and make sure that other people live in to your every whim. If there's any one rule in astrology this week, it's that the higher your hopes, the richer your achievements.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It's strange the way the planets gradually assemble for the great celestial performances of the year. Right now, Venus, planet of love, a major player on the cosmic stage, is about to intervene in your affairs in a big way. It could even bring a very interesting new person into your life.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Both personal and financial issues are relatively free from astrological pressures at the moment, at least as far as your solar chart is concerned. One reading of this situation is that you may reshape and redirect your investments, savings and income for the better.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

There are increasing signs of social stress. This is not a bad thing, I hasten to add, for the planets are perfectly placed to give the additional determination you need to get your own way. Or do you really want to do the best for others? If so, get on with it!

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

It's difficult to make precise delineations of your sign at the moment, because while most of you are still being wound up like a coiled spring, others are just about to explode. Exciting times indeed! All the stars ask that you avoid unnecessary risks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

If you acknowledge that partners have the advantage, you will avoid the temptation to try and take over - and will steer clear of a minor humiliation. Far better to get on with your own personal affairs in the knowledge that, with the right degree of co-operation, this could be a marvellous time.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

If you have been storing your feelings up, please relax and tell someone exactly how you feel about them. I know you are naturally reserved, but you must understand that you are in danger of letting a golden opportunity slip by. Keep an eye open for passing offers.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If new routines or methods are to be discarded, you may find that the personal situation becomes rather complicated. The problem probably lies with other people, who are constantly adjusting their opinions. But, then, it's your responsibility to keep up, isn't it?

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

In many ways this is an ideal day for reflection. You are going through quite a purgatorial phase, though naturally in your own utterly unique manner. The point is that you feel needed to be true to your spiritual ideals. That's not always easy, but at least you can try your best.

THE PHANTOM



BEETLE BAILEY



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



HI AND LOIS



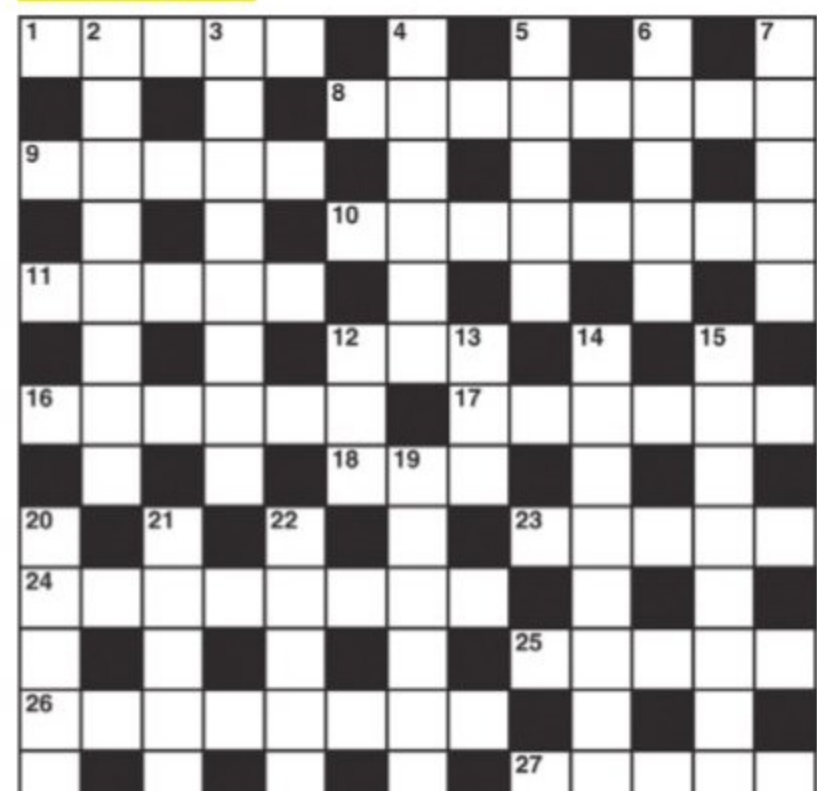
BLONDIE



SU DO KU

Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- Prohibition most of all is boring (5)
- There's no point in it for the loser, however sporting (4,4)
- A flowing shoot; rose perhaps (5)
- Times are changing for Arab states (8)
- Such law presumably implies a suspended sentence (5)
- She's not allowed in bed (3)
- What I'd be doing in the circus? (6)
- Falsely display (6)
- Not a home in the youth centre (3)
- France's flow of capital (5)
- All the money that may be made with apples? (8)
- Crook hiding in safe London hideout (5)
- An editor filled when on allowance (8)
- Possibly fired leaving a space to be filled (5)

DOWN

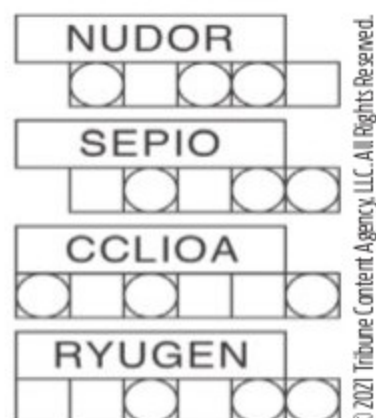
- It really is a breathtaking experience (8)
- Can a rich reconstruction be so chaotic? (6)
- Male and not male (8)
- Picked up the sound of cattle (5)
- Something done in the Channel Islands for plants (5)
- About to notice for instance returning birds (5)
- An essay concerning time past (3)
- Fruit put in crackers? (3)
- Note the actual combination - it's heavenly (8)
- Refuse to reduce the volume (4,4)
- Odd vigil held by distraught nun (6)
- Shop value (5)
- Muse sheds a tear with love (5)
- Stop or pass on (5)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1. Garnish, 5. Baste, 8. Rebellion, 9. Alp, 10. Odds, 12. Chastise, 14. Distill, 15. Remiss, 17. Isotherm, 18. Tyno, 21. Ego, 22. Reluctant, 24. Straw, 25. Endemic.
Down: 1. Garbo, 2. Rib, 3. Ide, 4. Height, 5. Bandsmen, 6. Stability, 7. Express, 11. Dishonour, 13. Withdraw, 14. Drivers, 16. Grille, 19. Optic, 20. Acid, 23. Aim.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

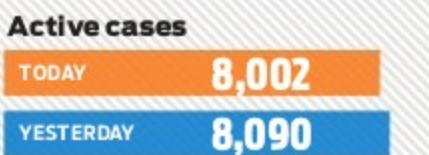
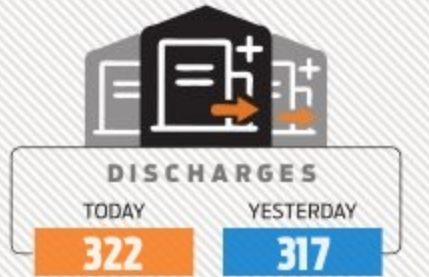
ANSWERS TOMORROW
FRIDAY'S Jumbles:
STYLE: MAXIM HAMPER TIPTOE
ANSWER: She sold Earl Grey oolong, Darjeeling, etc. Her cutlery is really enjoyed her - "EXPERT-TEAS"

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA



The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until November 7, 2021, a total of **29,89,952** cases have been reported in 1 year and 243 days...



The day positivity rate - **0.21%** - is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.



DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

151 BENGALURU URBAN
0 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	0
Ballari	0
Belagavi	2
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	0
Chikkaballapur	2
Chikkamagaluru	3
Chitradurga	0
Dakshina Kannada	11
Davanagere	1
Dharwad	6
Gadag	0
Hassan	12
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	4
Kolar	2
Koppal	0
Mandya	5
Mysuru	17
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	2
Tumakuru	4
Udupi	5
Uttara Kannada	12
Vijayapura	0
Yadgir	0

HEALTHCARE WILL COST YOU A LOT MORE

Prices of consumables, test reagents, pharma ingredients up, so are salaries of health workers

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@ Bengaluru

CITING the rise in prices of consumables and medicines, as well as the need to sustain higher salaries of health staff during the pandemic, hospitals say the cost of healthcare for patients may increase.

The cost of consumables such as nitrile gloves, bandages, sanitiser, gowns, masks, shoe covers, sterilising chemicals and lab reagents has gone up, pointed out Dr HM Prasanna, president, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA). Giving examples, he said the price of nitrile gloves has gone up from Rs 3.50 to Rs 6, and reagents for blood

sugar tests have risen from Rs 2-3 to Rs 5-6. "The cost of general medicines and antibiotics has gone up. Since input cost is higher, it will be passed on to patients. We were paying higher salaries to health workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, and they expect it to continue, though cases have dropped. In order to sustain the hospital, the cost of procedures has to be reset. For example, a knee replacement surgery, which costs Rs 2.5 lakh, will now be priced higher," Dr Prasanna said.

It's not medicines alone, but the price of inputs for medicines that has escalated, said Harish K Jain, president of Karnataka Drugs and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Asso-



ciation. This is due to the supply chain disruption owing to the pandemic, he said. "For ex-

ample, PVC foil, aluminium foil, active pharmaceutical ingredients, plastic, paper and products used for packaging have increased. We are dependent on China for pharmaceutical raw materials and they have hiked prices. The government must step in and allow for prices to be increased beyond what is permitted now," Jain said.

The pandemic has already blown a hole in the pocket of common people as prices for beds and consumables were increased, causing a drastic

change in the billing pattern since Covid-19 began, said Sabeel Nazir, trustee of Naasih Foundation, that clears bills for patients who cannot afford it. "Now the market has stabilised and even logistics are sorted out with no restrictions. They should reverse hospital rates to pre-Covid times. Hospitals don't want to do that as they have seen people shelling out money for medical emergencies during the pandemic. The government needs to control pharma bills," Nazir said.

A source pointed out that hospital pharmacies earn a higher margin as they sell drugs at exorbitant rates and there is no check on this by the government.

The cost of general medicines and antibiotics has gone up. Since input cost is higher, it will be passed on to patients. We were paying higher salaries to health workers during the Covid-19 pandemic
Dr HM Prasanna, president, PHANA

Anganwadi centres in Udupi to open today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

WITH sanitisation of all 1,191 anganwadi centres completed in Udupi district, they will be opened for children from Monday. Officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department have ensured that all the anganwadi workers have taken both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to make sure that the Novel Coronavirus does not spread.

As the anganwadi centres are reopening after a gap of nearly 18 months, a festival-like atmosphere prevails at all anganwadi centres. Nutritious food will be given to the kids to take home for now, while preparation of food at the centres will commence after evaluating the situation for 15 days.



An anganwadi centre all set to reopen in Udupi from Monday

Sources said that child development planning officers have been asked by the Women and Child Welfare Department officials to make sure that the anganwadi workers arriving at the centres from Monday will have a RTPCR negative report not older than 72 hours.

State plans more tests in coming weeks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"BECAUSE of recent events, we may increase the tests, especially random tests, or retain the same numbers. We will not leave out those who are symptomatic and suffer from Influenza-Like Illness/Severe Acute Respiratory Infection," Ran-deep said.

Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar told *The New Indian Express* that the state has decided to conduct more tests in the next 2-3 weeks in view of huge crowds (nearly 20 lakh) paying respects to Puneeth Rajkumar, celebrations of bypoll results in Hanagal and Sindagi and the Deepavali festive season.

"TAC had earlier recommended 1.1 lakh tests every day. Among these, 50,000 tests are to be conducted in Bengaluru and 60,000 in districts with special attention to border areas. The



Visitors throng BR Hills after Covid-19 restrictions were eased further | KPN

decision has been taken to increase the tests in Bengaluru by 20 per cent," he added.

He also said that the government is considering issuing guidelines again on collecting contact numbers of people who get medicines for cold, cough

and breathing problems. Further awareness will be created on getting Covid tests done. The tests will be conducted in crowded places, like markets and bus terminals, where a large number of people gather.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯುವ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್

3, ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಭವನ, ರೇಸ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು- 560 001.



KARNATAKA PRADESH YOUTH CONGRESS

3, Congress Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru- 560 001.



Wishing our
Covid Hero, Oxygen Man of India
National President Indian Youth Congress
SRI SRINIVAS B.V.

A VERY HAPPY
Birthday

RAKSHA RAMAIAH
President, KPYCC



Fat cats and the bitcoin riches

If the probe into the bitcoin scam is transparent, it could mean that many heads will roll. Leaders, their sons and some officers could be in trouble, says KPCC working president Ramalinga Reddy. He sounded supremely confident that ruling party leaders and members are involved and even predicted risk to the Basavaraj Bommai government. As former home minister, he might have his own intelligence wing plying him with info. But sources have a different spin on it, and say it's an all-party affair. A coastal Karnataka leader who is at the helm of affairs in a party, allegedly grabbed Rs 132 crore, and a leader who held the home portfolio in the past also got a taste of the riches. But as the Kannada adage goes, "Uppu tindavaru neeru kudiyalebeku" (those who eat salt, must drink a lot of water), it remains to be seen who seeks out water, and how transparent the probe is.

Not done? Cops get largesse from neta

Recently, a former MLA gifted the traditional 'shirt-and-trouser cloth piece' as Deepavali gift to policemen at Bagalkunte police station. This irked Karnataka Rashtra Samithi Paksha founder Ravikrishna Reddy, who condemned this largesse on social media, and claimed that his own party members are gifting the cops inner wear, which the former MLA might have overlooked. "If we give gifts to the police, they may not file any case or complaints against us. They might even salute us," he said. His party is also reportedly collecting money to give to the policemen, so they can get their shirts and trousers stitched!



Darshan, son of former MLA and farmer leader late K S Puttannaiah, addresses the media in Pandavapura | EXPRESS

Politico-techie to try luck again in Melukote

Mandya, the hotbed of protests and politics, and preferred battleground of tinsel stars and political scions looking for new fortunes, is sure to see more action. Darshan (43), son of former MLA and Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) leader late K S Puttannaiah, is looking to fly back to home base. From doing sundry jobs to founding his own IT firm Quinix Technologies in 2012, Darshan spent over one-and-half decades in the US. In 2018, he had returned to India and unsuccessfully contested the Melukote Assembly seat on Yogendra Yadav's Swaraj Abhiyan party ticket, and returned to the US. Now, he's cast his eye on the 2023 assembly polls, and has reportedly shifted base to Mandya. Whether he will contest as an independent, a KRRS representative or go with Yadav's outfit is not yet clear. While his company's tagline is 'Building the future on Google Cloud Together', looks like Darshan is building a different future in Melukote...

Dark deed on a dark road

Recently, Kodihalli Mutt's head in Hiriyur taluk passed away. Since Sri Markandeyamuni was one of the Dalit community's humble but influential religious heads, politicians of Chitradurga and Tumakuru made a beeline to the mutt to pay their last respects. Union minister A Narayanaswamy, former Karnataka minister T B Jayachandra and former DyCM Dr G Parameshwara were among them. On the way, a car in one of the leaders' convoys hit a motorbike, killing a woman in her twenties. Since it happened in the dark, there was no public glare or outcry, and the police allegedly ignored it too. The dark deed was hushed up, with a possible payoff, but it could haunt the sinner's conscience for a long time to come...

Post Hanagal, Siddu plays AHINDA card again

BJP tries to undercut his claim on SCs, holds protests; Cong leader needs to marshal all denominations

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

LEADER of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, who had led an aggressive Congress campaign in the recent Hanagal and Sindagi bypolls, is trying to project himself to the party high command as the "undisputed" AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) leader, by projecting the bypoll results in his favour. While Congress candidate Srinivas V Mane won in Hanagal, BJP's Ramesh Bhusanur won Sindagi.

According to sources, Siddaramaiah met AICC president Sonia Gandhi three weeks before the bypolls and had assured her of a win for the party, especially in Hanagal, as Mane was his choice of candidate. "He was confident of various factors, including internal bickering in the BJP, that could help the Congress," a party source told *TNIE*.

As soon as results were declared on November 2, Siddaramaiah was quick to take credit for the party's victory in Hanagal. He reportedly dialled AICC general secretary and Karnataka affairs in-charge Randeep Surjewala and discussed the results, besides several other political developments. "The backward



classes, SCs, STs and Muslims by and large voted for the Congress in Hanagal, where Siddaramaiah campaigned intensely. He passed on this message to the high command through Surjewala," the source said.

The BJP, which got wind of it, termed Siddaramaiah an opportunist and a day later, the party's SC wing held agitations across Karnataka for his purported remarks on SCs.

Reacting quickly, Siddaramaiah, in a series of tweets, cornered the BJP, saying he had implemented several schemes for SCs during his tenure as chief minister. "Loans up to Rs 10 crore at 4 per cent interest were extended to SC/ST entrepreneurs. Loans worth Rs 908 crore were provided, benefiting 1,597 entrepreneurs. This is our achievement. What is the BJP's?" he questioned.

It may be recalled that AHI-

NDA conventions ahead of the 2013 Assembly elections had catapulted Siddaramaiah as a leader of the masses, and helped him occupy the CM's chair. But a section of SCs turned hostile as he allegedly worked towards the defeat of former deputy CM Dr G Parameshwara from Koratagere, and also removed V Srinivasa Prasad from his cabinet. "Siddaramaiah paid the price for it as he lost from Chamundeshwari in 2018. He managed to win Badami by a narrow margin," a Congress leader said.

"It was the most backward communities (MBCs) that helped him win in Badami, and not just Kurubas. He let them down by not giving them representation in the cabinet when he was CM," an AHINDA leader alleged. "It is difficult for him to emerge again as an AHINDA leader unless he takes the 49.5 per cent MBCs, apart from 6.5 per cent Kurubas into confidence," the leader added.

But KPCC president DK Shivakumar, who has realised the importance of MBCs, has been trying to impress upon them that he has given former Backward Classes Commission chairman C S Dwarakanath the work of organising them for the Congress, ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections.

Congress to protest in Davanagere

DAVANAGERE: The SC wing of the Congress will stage a protest in Davanagere on Monday against the BJP for terming former chief minister Siddaramaiah anti-SCs. District Congress Committee general secretary Dinesh Shetty alleged that the BJP was trying to project Siddaramaiah as being anti-Dalit after its defeat in the recent Hanagal bypoll. "Siddaramaiah has always worked hard for the welfare of SCs—whether in power or not," he said.

Unconditional apology sought

KALABURAGI: BJP leaders have condemned the purported statement made by Siddaramaiah that SCs were joining BJP for their livelihood. Sedam MLA Rajkumar Patil Telkur, Kalaburagi-Rural MLA Basavaraj Mattimudu and state SC Morcha vice-president Ambaraya Astagi alleged that Siddaramaiah had not only insulted SCs by his statement, but also the Father of the Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar. He should tender an unconditional apology, they demanded.

BJP executive meet discusses polls to 5 states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE BJP national executive, which convened in New Delhi on Sunday, did not discuss the Hanagal and Sindagi assembly bypoll results in Karnataka, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said here on Sunday.

The meeting, which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took note of the party's progress in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, he added.

After taking part in the executive meet virtually, Ashoka told reporters that the executive had condoned the untimely death of 'Power star' Puneeth Rajkumar and former minister CM Udasi. The deliberations, held for over two hours on the upcoming elections in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, was on development as an issue. Modi expressed confidence that BJP would win.

He received appreciation at



State BJP leaders, including CM Basavaraj Bommai, former CM BS Yediyurappa, party state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel and others attend the party's national executive meeting virtually, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

the meeting for handling the Covid-19 situation effectively in terms of ensuring adequate oxygen, manufacturing vaccines and exporting to other countries, ensuring over 100 crore people are vaccinated, and keeping the financial status of the country in good shape when other countries were languishing, Ashoka said. Party workers who couldn't

stage protests as the party was ruling both at the state and Centre, have chosen serve people in distress, and this should continue, the meeting observed.

The minister said that although the Congress has been on the decline elsewhere in the country, leaders in Karnataka are upbeat over the Hanagal victory.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

ADDING credence to speculation that he would join the Congress, former minister and current Chamundeshwari MLA from the Janata Dal-Secular GT Devegowda will be sharing the dais with Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, during a slew of events to be held in Mysuru on November 8 and 9.

With this, rumours are a-rife of the senior JDS leader officially joining the Grand Old Party. Devegowda had defeated Siddaramaiah by over 30,000 votes in the 2018 Assembly polls from Chamundeshwari segment in Mysuru — the latter's home bastion.

Devegowda, however, on Sunday maintained that he is yet to take a call on his political future. "I have not yet decided on anything. I will go by the decision of my voters," he said.

Responding to a question on the joint appearance, Devegowda said, "This is not the first time I will be sharing the stage with Siddaramaiah. Recently, I even



took part in an event attended by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. I will be there when the people of my constituency invite me to be a part of it."

He, however, categorically expressed his displeasure against former chief minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy. "The JDS leader took part in the inauguration of Chamundeshwari temple in Belavadi. My name was not on the invitation nor was I invited for any meeting. So, I did not take part in the party activities," he said.

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy had recently said it was left to Devegowda to take a decision on whether to continue in the JDS or not. Asked if he would speak to Devegowda to convince him to stay in JDS, Kumaraswamy said, "I am not in touch with him for the past two years. The question of talking to him comes only when he decides to stay on in the party." Devegowda, in a bid to convey his disappointment to the JDS top brass, had skipped the party's workshop — Janata Parva 1.0 — held recently.

This is not the first time I will be sharing the stage with Siddaramaiah. Recently, I even took part in an event attended by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. I will be there when the people of my constituency invite me to be a part of it

GT Devegowda, JDS MLA

CM meets RSS leaders

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday held a meeting with RSS leaders at his official quarters on Race Course Road, on Sunday morning. An RSS leader from Karnataka C R Mukund arrived at the CM's residence and held a meeting with Bommai over breakfast, which lasted about 20-30 minutes. Soon after Mukund left, Bommai participated in the BJP National Executive meeting virtually. Details of the meeting are not known and neither side offered any details. It may be recalled that RSS leaders had visited former CM B S Yediyurappa about two weeks ago, and no details of the meeting were available.

"It was a tough seat for us as even Udasi used to win by a slender margin in the past. But we are going to win the seat next time," Ashoka said.



Cong plans padayatra over Mekedatu

ENS @ Bengaluru

IN an attempt to exert pressure on the BJP governments at the State and the Centre for the speedy implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery, Congress workers in Karnataka will take out a padayatra from Mekedatu to Bengaluru in the first week of December.

Hundreds of Congress workers from eight districts — Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Ramanagara, Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Chikkaballapur, and Kolar — will embark upon a 100-km long padayatra from the Mekedatu project site in Kanakapura taluk to Bengaluru.

Speaking to the media after a meeting of senior party leaders here, Congress leader Siddaramaiah said the padayatra is not politically motivated. "It is in the interest of the state. The project will also help Tamil Nadu as it will help us store water and release it when the neighbouring state needs water. It will also help to set up a hydel project to generate electricity," he said.

According to Siddaramaiah, the Detail Project Report for the project was prepared during his tenure as the chief minister and only a nod from the environmental ministry was awaited. "Basavaraj Bommai lacks political will to pursue the project and hence we are launching the protest," Siddaramaiah added.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar alleged that the 'double engines' — the BJP government in the State and at the Centre — have shown no commitment in implementing the project despite it facing no legal hurdles.

2 ministers seek Padma Shri for Puneeth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WHEN the state cabinet meets on Monday, it will in all likelihood take up the issue of recommending late actor Puneeth Rajkumar's name for Padma Shri. Both Agriculture Minister BC Patil and Tourism Minister Anand Singh on Sunday demanded that the award be presented posthumously to the actor, who passed away at the age of 46 on October 29.

Patil told *TNIE* that if Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai allows the issue to be raised at the Cabinet meeting, everyone will support it.

Patil, who was an actor before joining politics, said, "As a fan, I join other fans of Puneeth in demanding Padma Shri to him. I urge the CM to recommend it to the Centre. Puneeth is qualified as he helped society through his social work." In Haveri, Anand Singh said, "Puneeth

had joined us in several campaigns for the public good, like Pulse-polio, when I was into social service..."

Bommai had said recently, "The entire state and government have love and respect for Puneeth. There are rules as to who and when suggestions for such awards be made. In a way, it will be a unanimous recommendation for Puneeth. As a government, we will consider all aspects and then take a decision."



People queue up outside Bengaluru's Kanteerava Studios on Sunday to pay tributes to actor Puneeth Rajkumar | SHRIRAM B

NOT IN OUR BACKYARD

Waves of criticism for Hebbar's offshore casino idea

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

UTTARA Kannada district in-charge minister Shivaram Hebbar's recent statement that opening casinos in the district should be considered to promote tourism has created a furore, with political leaders, activists and the public slamming him for making such a suggestion. Hebbar, who is also a minister of state for labour, told reporters recently that mega infrastructure projects are be-

ing planned in the district. He also revealed his plans for a floating casino near Karwar, on the lines of Goa. "People go to casinos in Goa. Crowds from nooks and corners of the country through these places. Thousands of people from Karnataka too go there. If we attract just the crowd from the state, we will generate revenues," he had said.

Several intellectuals expressed concern over the minister's state-

ment. "He should not have spoken about opening casinos. It will anger many people, for whom casino is taboo. There are ways and means to develop tourism even without a casino," said Maruthi, an activist here.

"Developing tourism on the lines of Goa is welcome, but casino is not in our culture. We oppose this," said, Ram Naik, former Karwar taluk president, Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

Politicians too gave Hebbar an earful. "Promoting tourism is fine. Create adequate amenities and required infrastructure at beaches, then people will come in large numbers. Later, think whether casinos are feasible or not. Stop appeasing a particular class of people. Focus on improving the lives of farmers and poor children by providing agriculture benefits and improving spate of anganwadis," Gopalakrishna Naik, secretary, KPCC, advised Hebbar.

GHOST OF 2015 HAUNTS CHENNAI

Highest rainfall in six years drowns parts of city; red alert as more rain likely; Stalin asks PM for aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHENNAI was caught off-guard on Sunday as the overnight downpour of over 21cm of rains brought parts of the city to a standstill, recalling the 2015 deluge. Chief Minister MK Stalin, who visited flood-affected areas, urged people to postpone their travel to Chennai in view of rains.

According to a statement, the CM, speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sought funds from the Centre address rain relief and related works as the State disaster fund was exhausted by Covid-19 efforts.

Meanwhile, with a red alert issued the city, the government declared a holiday for schools, colleges in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur on Monday and Tuesday while, barring essential services, government departments will be closed in the capital on Monday.

The CM urged city private firms to give their staff a holiday or allow them to work from



Emergency personnel rescue a family at Vijaya Raghava Road, Teynampet, in Chennai on Sunday | EXPRESS

home. To aid in rescue operations, the National Disaster Response Force has deployed four teams to Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur and Madurai.

For residents and officials, Sunday brought back the worst memories of the 2015 floods that brought the city to its knees. Indeed, the rainfall re-

ceived overnight was the second highest 24-hr rainfall recorded since November 2015. As rains continued, water was released from city reservoirs. Some Chennaites were forced to temporarily vacate their houses on the ground floor to seek shelter on higher floors, while others moved out to the

safety of hotels. "Those who have the option to stay in the first or second floors have moved. A few others in our area have left for hotels leaving sandbags to protect their entrances," said Geetha Ganesh, a resident of the AGS colony in Velachery. Many hospitals were water-

Train short terminated

Bengaluru: Due to heavy rain in Chennai, the KSR Bengaluru-Chennai train was short terminated at Thiruvallur on Sunday instead of Chennai, the South Western Railway said. The train departed late, at 3.15 pm, from Bengaluru due to operational reasons. The Chennai-KSR Bengaluru Special commenced from Perambur instead of Chennai.

logged due to the downpour. Health Secretary J Radhakrishna directed collectors and health teams to ensure no waterlogging on the premises and to ensure adequate fuel for generators is stored.

Parts of the city were partially closed for traffic as subways and roads were filled with water. Passengers were hit as several trains were delayed although flight operations at Chennai airport were unaffected. Water on the tarmac was drained every now and then.

CLIMATE CHANGE



STOP DEFORESTATION TO SUSTAIN WATER FOR NEXT GENERATION

GLOBAL warming with the escalation of greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint (400 parts per million from 280 ppm CO2 emissions of the pre-industrial era) and consequent changes in the climate has been affecting the livelihood of people with the erosion of ecosystem productivity and recurring disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, etc. The anthropogenic activities such as power generation (burning of fossil fuels), agriculture (livestock, farming, rice cultivation, and burning of crop residues), polluting water bodies, industry and urban activities (transport, mismanagement of solid and liquid waste, etc.) have risen substantially CO2 concentrations to 72% among greenhouse gases.

Emissions and sequestration of carbon need to be balanced to sustain ecosystem functions and maintain the environmental conditions. Forests are the major carbon sinks (45%) aiding in the mitigation of global warming.

Unplanned developmental activities with the large-scale land cover changes leading to deforestation and land degradation are the prime drivers of global warming due to the loss of carbon sequestration potential and emissions. Forest ecosystems sequester the atmospheric carbon, which aids in moderating the global climate. The land cover change is evident even in the Western Ghats, with the decline of evergreen forest cover from 16.21% in 1985 to 11.3% in 2018. For example, large-scale developmental activities such as the construction of dams, power projects, forest-based industries, road expansions, urbanization, encroachment for horticultural and agricultural practices in Uttara Kannada district have led to the decline of forests from 74.19% (1973) to 48.04% (2018) with the loss of evergreen forests from 56.07% to 24.85%, which have threatened the sustenance of water, evident from the conversion of perennial streams to intermittent or seasonal streams, flash

floods during monsoon and droughts during summer, affecting the food security and livelihood of people.

Hence, the premium should be towards the conservation of the forests with native species to sustain water, which is vital for food security. Carbon footprint in India is contributed by emissions from the energy sector (68%), agriculture (19.6%), industrial processes (6%), LU change (3.8%), and forestry (1.9%), with CO2 emissions of about 3.1 mg (2017), and the per capita CO2 emissions of 2.56 metric tonnes.

The ecologically fragile Western Ghats region has been playing the pivotal role of mitigating carbon footprint with the potential to sequester carbon emission of all southern Indian cities and 1.62% of the total CO2 emissions from India.

India has committed at the Paris Climate Change Agreement to reduce emissions by 33-35% by 2030, which necessitates the immediate

implementation of carbon capture (through afforestation of degraded landscapes with native species, and regulating large scale land cover changes) and de-carbonisation (through large scale implementation of renewable and sustainable energy alternatives) with stringent norms towards protection of ecologically fragile regions, disincentives for continued higher emissions based on 'polluter pays' principle and adoption of cluster-based decentralized developmental approaches and incentives for reduced emission.

Carbon trading has demonstrated the potential in monetary values across the globe of Indian forests in capturing carbon. The forest ecosystems in the Western Ghats are worth Rs 100 billion (\$1.4 billion) at \$30 per tonne. The carbon credit mechanism and streamlining stakeholder's active participation would dramatically reduce the abuse of forests and encourage farmers to grow trees and convert the land to its next best use.



Dr T V RAMACHANDRA
Co-ordinator, Energy & Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc

RAINY DAY

Red alert for Nov 10-11

A red alert has been issued by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) as heavy rain is expected to hit Chennai and its suburbs on November 10-11.

45 cm

All-time record of highest rain in 1976.

33cm & 25cm

Rainfall on two different dates in 1985

25 cm

Rainfall during 2015 deluge

2-day holiday for schools

Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday declared a two-day holiday for schools and colleges in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur.

HARASSMENT

Woman kills realtor hubby

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 46-year-old realtor was bludgeoned to death by his wife in Madanayakanahalli near Nelamangala on Saturday night. The woman surrendered before the police soon after the murder, accusing her husband of sexual misconduct.

The deceased has been identified as Swamy Raj, a resident of Harokiyathana-halli, who had married the accused after separating from his first wife.

A senior police officer said that at 10 pm, the couple had a fight after Raj allegedly forced the accused to indulge in wife-swapping with one of his relatives.

This alleged demand of his was reportedly going on for some time. Enraged, on Saturday, his wife picked up an iron rod and struck Raj's head when he was asleep. She later went to Madanayakanahalli police station and surrendered, the police said.

However, Raj's first wife stated before the police that the victim and his second wife were married for 10 years and often quarrelled over some property dispute, which she alleged as the real motive behind the murder. She has filed a police case.

2 expert teams to visit tremor-hit villages

RAMKRISHNA BADESEHI @ Kalaburagi

IN the wake of villages of Kalaburagi, Bidar and Vijayapura districts experiencing mild tremors frequently for the past few weeks, experts from different organisations will visit tremor-affected villages on Monday to study the ground situation. According to official sources, the experts will also attend a brainstorming session in Kalaburagi on Tuesday to share their findings. They will also submit a report to the government about their findings, sources said.

To visit the affected villages of Kalaburagi, Bidar and Vijayapura districts on Monday, the experts have formed two teams and the team 'A' will visit villages of Chincholi and Kalagi taluks of Kalaburagi district and a village of Bidar district. The team 'B' will visit the tremor-affected villages of Vijayapura district.

Commissioner of KSDMA & director KSNDDMC Dr Manoj Rajan, senior scientist of NGRI Hyderabad Dr Shashidhar, scientist and head, Engineering Seismology department of National Institute of Rock Mechanism (NIRM) Bengaluru Dr. Balasubramaniam V R, senior scientist of CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI) Bengaluru Chiranjeevi G Vivek, Director Landslide Division of Geological Survey of India (GSI)

Bengaluru R Sajeer, Scientist 'E' of National Centre for Seismology (NCS) New Delhi Dr A P Singh, deputy director (Plan) of Mines and Geology department of Karnataka Harish P, senior assistant professor of Department of Geology Department of Central University of Karnataka Dr. Lingadevaru, guest faculty of University of Mysuru Darshan M S and Siddharaju and officials of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDDMC) and Revenue Department S Jagadish, K K Abhinay, S Emily Prabha Jothi and Annaveerappa will visit tremor-affected villages of Kalagi and Chincholi taluks.

Senior consultant of KSDMA Dr G S Srinivasa Reddy, retired professor of Department of Geology of Bengaluru University Dr B C Prabhakar, Senior Technical Officer of NGRI Hyderabad Dr Suresh, Scientist and Head, SeismoTectonics Department NIRM Bengaluru Dr Biju John, Project Staff of CSIR-4PI Dr Ramesh Raja Mir, Geologist Landslide Division of Geological Survey of India Achan Konyak, Deputy Director (Hospete) of Mines and Geology Department of Karnataka Mahaveer K A, Assistant Professor of Department of Geology of Central University of Karnataka Dr Tejaswi, and staff of KSNDDMC and revenue department of Karnataka Dr Ramesh Dikpal and R Santosh Kumar will visit villages in and around Vijayapura.



QUAKES CONTINUE TO GIVE RESIDENTS SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

People have to be on alert but there is no need to panic as it is very low scale. Moreover, the district falls under a mild-earthquake zone. We are also taking necessary measures

Sunil Kumar, Deputy Commissioner

PEOPLE across Vijayapura continue to live in the fear of tremors as an earthquake of 1.9 magnitude on the Richter scale hit Vijayapura at 11:15 am on Saturday.

The epicenter of the quake was near Karibhantnal village of Basavana Bagewadi taluk at the depth of 10 kilometres, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDDMC).

Tremors of low-intensity were felt in the surrounding villages of Basavana Bagewadi taluk.

According to the KSNDDMC, "The earthquake of magnitude 1.9 occurred at Karibhantnal village. A low-magnitude of tremors was recorded at 11:15 am. The seismic activity has been reported at the seismological observatory centre located at Almatti Dam."

It may be noted that in the last 24 hours, people have experienced tremors at least seven times in Basavana Bagewadi, Bableshtar and Tikota taluks.

CAR CRASH CLAIMS ENGG STUDENT'S LIFE



Bengaluru: An engineering student was killed, while seven others escaped with injuries, after the car they were travelling in crashed into an electric pole while overtaking an ambulance. The incident occurred in Magadi on the outskirts of the city on Sunday morning. The victims were heading to Savanadurga for a trek, the police said. The deceased has been identified as Akanksha Gupta (19), a native of Udhampur in Jammu and a fifth semester engineering student at a private college in Basavanagudi. The injured, Ashish Raj, Divyansh, Ashutosh, Darshan, Yashovardhan Singh, Bhavya and Williams, were shifted to a private hospital. All of them are students too. ENS

No road: Pregnant woman forced to walk

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

WITH lack of proper infrastructure and road connectivity, the plight of tribals living in the fringes of Nagarhole forest comes to the fore again after a pregnant woman was made to walk for more than a kilometre to avail ambulance service. The incident was reported at Bommalapura Haadi near Boodnur village in HD Kote taluk of Mysuru.

According to the Jenu Kuruba people residing in this tribal hamlet, Ranjitha, a woman in her early 20s experienced labour pain. Her family members immediately alerted ASHA worker Mangala, who is the go-to person for any health issues in the hamlet.

Mangala immediately called an ambulance driver who rushed to the spot. Though the ambulance belonging to the Vivekananda Memorial Hospital, a rural tribal multispecialty hospital, came on time, the poor condition of the road connecting the hamlet posed a great challenge for the vehicle to reach the doorstep of the patient.

With no option left, the young woman was made to walk amid



A tribal woman being escorted to an ambulance by fellow villagers | EXPRESS

heavy downpour for about 1.5 km from her house to reach the ambulance. The ASHA worker also walked along with her holding an umbrella.

"It's fortunate that she was immediately shifted to the hospital on time and delivered a healthy baby. If it was during the night hours, things would have been different," Mangala said adding elephants and other wild animals on the stretch are a common sight. She also pointed out the struggles faced by children going to schools

and Anganwadis. Kalappa, a resident, said earlier ambulance were able to reach our hamlet and we could shift the patient to the hospital in that.

"Recently we were told that a road would be laid to connect the hamlet and we were happy. Even the required stones were also brought. But forest officials have not given consent to it and we are at the receiving end. The road condition worsens in monsoon and also when it rains," he said.

POWER PUNCH

Will join hands with others to defeat BJP: KCR

HYDERBAD: Not one to lie low in the face of the BJP's fusillade against him and his party Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday packed a powerful punch at the Centre, announcing that henceforth, the TRS would set fire to the saffron party on all its sides, for its out and out anti-farmer and anti-people policies.

Chandrasekhar Rao, speaking to media-persons at his official residence Pragati Bhavan, said that till now the TRS supported the BJP in Parliament on some issues based on merit in expectation of the centre helping the state. But on the contrary, its decisions were in conflict with the interests of the state as well as the nation. "I will join hands with whoever comes along in fighting the BJP at the centre," he said, implying the possibility of bringing all the disparate opposition parties together. ENS

EXPRESS READ

3 booked over ponzi scheme

Bengaluru: Sleuths of the Economic Offences Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have booked three people on charges of running a Ponzi scheme by luring people with high returns and commissions if they invested in cryptocurrency. Police said Raghavendra, Nagaraju and Shivamurthy, all residents of HSR Layout, held an event at a star hotel in Yelahanka recently, where they tried to lure the attendees that they can earn a huge return if they invested in cryptocurrency through Fomoex company. They claimed that the company had offices in America, Singapore and China. ENS

Techie, two boys drown in pond

Bengaluru : Two boys and a 31-year old software engineer drowned in a pond in Iggalur village near Anekal on Saturday evening. The deceased are Amith Kumar (31), Rishikesh, (9) and Deemant (12). They were residents of Nagenahalli Layout. Kumar hails from Sandur in Ballari district and was working in an IT company in Electronic City. He was unmarried. The boys were students at a private school. A senior police officer said Rishikesh and Deemant, along with another friend Surya, were playing cricket after returning from school when the ball fell into a 20-feet-deep pond. The three got in to fish the ball out, but started drowning. Surya screamed for help and Amith, who was passing by, pulled him out immediately. When Amith tried to rescue the two, he too drowned. The bodies were shifted for the postmortem and based on a complaint by Deemant's parents, the police filed a case of negligence against Chandrasekhar Reddy, who owns the farmland. There was no fencing around the pond. However, Reddy claimed before the police that there was a compound wall and it had recently collapsed due to the heavy rain. ENS



INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

WHY DIWALI CRACKER BAN IN DELHI WENT UP IN SMOKE

In the end, extensive judicial labouring to keep Delhi Diwali smoke-free came to naught. Despite a total ban on stocking, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the city imposed by a Supreme Court Bench, the air quality index on the day after the festival was at its worst in five years. Peak stubble burning in the neighbouring states and the first arrival of winter fog that day added to the ambient air quality being classified as severe. Much like liquor smuggled into a dry state through its porous borders, Delhi's satellite cities leaked firecrackers into the 'sterile zone' as there was no bar on their trade there. Though the Bench assured that the regulation was not against any festival or community, toxic trolling framed it narrowly, giving a certain impetus to flouting the fiat. The court's warning to chief secretaries and the police on holding them accountable for violations made little difference. Tokenism apart, there was hardly any effort to implement the order.

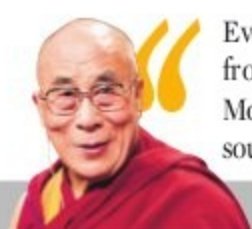
It is nobody's case that celebrations can be held at the cost of lives of other citizens. Even the fireworks industry concurred, though there is evidence to suggest that the directive to go for green crackers alone as they emit lesser toxins, while phasing out carcinogenic products made of barium and its salts, were not entirely observed. What also stood out was the failure to build a consensus among all stakeholders to make such sweeping orders work. Healthy consultations with community elders, including faith leaders, could be a starting point to bring behavioural changes. Also, convincing responses to posers on fussing over what is essentially a day's fouling of the air, when lakhs of citizens can't resist their daily smoke, are needed to strengthen the discourse.

Make no mistake, even the net-zero target set for a later generation cannot be met without community participation. Else, judicial pulpitry could boomerang as it did in the case of stubble burning last year when Justice Arun Mishra famously said the situation in the capital was worse than hell and directed stringent punitive actions, one of the reasons why farmers later went on the warpath. By the way, stubble burning is slated to come up before the current Bench soon. Here's wishing it luck.

CASTE CENSUS TIED TO TN SUB-QUOTA

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court quashed a 10.5% sub-quota provided to the Vanniyar community by the Tamil Nadu government. The legislation, providing for a sub-quota within the 20% reservation for the MBC communities in the state, was passed hurriedly by the House just hours before polls for the Assembly were notified earlier this year. Seen as a bid by the then ruling AIADMK to woo voters of the Vanniyar community, who are dominant in the northern districts of the state, the legislation was seen as a political gamble on the part of the then Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, who risked alienating voters from the other MBC communities whose share of the 20% reservation was reduced to 7% and 2.5%. Particularly aggrieved were members of the Thevar community, who are dominant in the southern districts. In the Assembly polls, it appeared that the gamble had failed: The DMK swept the northern districts and dominated the delta and south, with only the west remaining as solace for the AIADMK. Subsequently, the DMK government in July issued an order implementing the sub-quota, the provision of which was challenged by multiple parties.

The court's verdict zeroes in on multiple infirmities—some obvious—that riddled the legislation. The court quashed the sub-quota on primarily three grounds: first, the state was not competent to enact such a law when the 102nd constitutional amendment (which removed from states the power to include and exclude BC communities) was still in force; second, the legislation discriminates on the basis of caste by treating one as a separate class "while treating similar castes differently"; third, the quota was provided without an iota of data to show backwardness or inadequate representation. The state government, which defended the law by citing population data from 1983, has said it will appeal. However, it is clear that for any such quota to be provided and to stand legal and moral scrutiny, a caste census must be undertaken, a bullet neither Dravidian major seems willing to bite. In the absence of a census, such laws risk being dismissed as cynical, half-baked bids aimed at nothing more than winning elections.



Everyone seeks happiness, joyfulness, but from outside—from money, from power, from big car, from big house. Most people never pay much attention to the ultimate source of a happy life, which is inside, not outside

Dalai Lama

The group's decision to withhold the invitation to Myanmar's military chief was a bold step and will help improve its credibility in the face of criticism

ASEAN'S TINY STEP OVER THE MYANMAR COUP

SHANKARI SUNDARARAMAN



Professor at School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi

ASIAN AXIS

Last month's ASEAN meeting, for the first time, gave a categorical rebuke to the Myanmar junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing, by not inviting him for the summit. This sent a clear message, if somewhat late, to the military leadership that stymied the formation of the elected government in Myanmar in February by carrying out a coup d'etat.

Last month's refusal to invite the military leader to participate is probably the very first time that ASEAN has taken this approach vis-a-vis the military government in Myanmar. For years when the Western world refused to engage with the Myanmar government, ASEAN's policy of constructive and flexible engagement kept Myanmar within the grouping. ASEAN's efforts to address the current political issue seems to be a bit late especially as nearly nine months have passed since the coup in Myanmar, which had severe repercussions on the civilian population, with several casualties and arrests of protestors. Assessing how the regional dynamics have played a role in the Myanmar context will illustrate the flip-flop approach that ASEAN

has followed, particularly in the aftermath of the coup, until last month's decision.

The initial efforts set in motion by the Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi's diplomatic visits across the region were ineffective, sending uncertain signals. Ignoring the pleas of the protestors, the diplomatic efforts were more focused on getting the military to commit to holding elections within a stipulated period of time, rather than a clear message that supported the reinstatement of the elected government. While attempting to walk this tightrope, ASEAN remained a grouping that was both undecided and divided on how Myanmar was to be dealt with. Both these characteristics are not new to ASEAN, as its cohesion has always remained divided on critical matters. A decisive option would have been to place Myanmar under suspension until the military violence ended, but that would mean going against ASEAN's sacrosanct principle of non-interference in internal affairs, a core pillar since its inception.

The grouping received tremendous criticism from the international community and

the protestors within Myanmar when General Hlaing was invited to the ASEAN's Jakarta summit in April 2021 that was seen as a de facto recognition of the coup and support for the military's legitimacy. ASEAN however defended its position by requesting the military leadership to commit itself to the five-point consensus agenda that was set forth in the meeting. The agenda had two clear categories of measures to be implemented. The first was that it called for the following at ground level within Myanmar: 1. The immediate end to the violence. 2. All parties to the political conflict were to exercise restraint. 3. Constructive dialogue and a peaceful solution to the political standoff between the military and



For years when the Western world refused to engage with the Myanmar government, ASEAN's policy of constructive and flexible engagement kept the country within the grouping. ... ASEAN's capacity to intervene is extremely limited given that the region is composed of states that are hybrid or quasi-democracies themselves

the protestors. The second set of measures was particularly focused on the initiatives taken by ASEAN to help resolve the conflict. This had two main provisions: 1. The ASEAN chair would appoint a special envoy who would work in coordination with the Secretary-General to mitigate the political crisis. 2. Most critical with regard to the unfolding humanitarian crisis, coupling both the political stalemate and the Covid situation, was the extension of humanitarian assistance through the AHA or the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance.

While in principle General Hlaing agreed to these steps at the ASEAN summit, he then returned to Myanmar and stated that normalcy on the ground had to return first before these points could be considered and implemented, literally bringing the situation to naught and undermining the minimal influence the group had. For ASEAN, the appointment of the special envoy, Erywan Yusof, took about six months and the role for the AHA remained negligible. Much of the work of the AHA has been limited to assistance in the context of natural disasters and humanitarian relief. Its approach precludes the organisation from

addressing situations of political conflict within the member countries. This is unlike the case of Western democracies where the question of humanitarian assistance is not just provided to areas where civilian populations are affected by natural disasters and calamities, but are also at risk as a result of political conflict. For ASEAN, its capacity to intervene is extremely limited given that the region is composed of states that are hybrid or quasi-democracies themselves.

On October 15, the decision of the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting to withhold the invitation to the Myanmar military was a bold step that was pending for long. Much of the remarks by regional leaders following this development highlight the importance of improving the credibility of ASEAN in the face of criticisms levelled against it on its inaction on core regional matters. While this may seem a small step after months of uncertainty, and its effects to bring about real change may still be debated, it is nevertheless a welcome decision. May this be the first of many steps for ASEAN to reinvent itself in the context of events unfolding in the region. (shankari@mail.jnu.ac.in)

AYODHYA, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIC TOURISM MODEL

ANURADHA GOYAL



Author and founder of IndiTeles

Visuals of millions of lamps lighting up the city of Ayodhya make our hearts swell with emotion. Do we all not celebrate Diwali because it was first celebrated in Ayodhya, many eons ago? The town is now standing at an important juncture in its history.

Traditionally, tourism in India was driven by temple towns like Ayodhya, Kanchi and Kashi, which pilgrims regularly visited following a calendar of fairs and festivals or their own resolve based on the stage of life. Besides religious rituals, people visited sacred places to spend time with learned sages and saints; it was considered time to contemplate in an environment conducive to learning.

Since the liberalisation of the economy, we have seen all kinds of new-age tourism that have worked in the West being experimented in our nation, be it wineries in Maharashtra, casinos in Goa, adventures in mountains or underwater expeditions in the coastal regions. In terms of our habits, we have moved from

staying in a hotel only if we did not know anyone in town to staying in one by default, even if we have family and friends in the place. The availability of all kinds of accommodations, from minimal bed-and-breakfast places to high-end luxury resorts, leave us spoilt for choice. Some properties have become a destination in themselves, where you can get yourself pampered in a way that is brag-worthy in your social network—both real and digital. All these have seen reasonable success, but they miss the vital rootedness in Indic travel traditions.

Ayodhya, the city of the *Ramayana* and many illustrious kings, is at the heart of the Indian ethos. The city is just coming out of the neglect of at least a millennium, with the building of the Sri Ram Mandir. It will by default attract devotees and tourists from around the country as well as the world, much more than what it can accommodate. Now, will the city be ready to handle

so many visitors? This is one question everyone has. Ample work is being done to handle it in terms of hard infrastructure. Tourism economies organically learn to handle the business that walks up to them. Innovative solutions will pop up as the demand builds up.

However, the point that everyone seems to be missing is that of soft infrastructure. Ayodhya is our opportunity to define an Indic way of travel. It is our opportunity to develop a city that is rooted in its historic past, that carries forward the aura of its spiritual essence and has the capability to lead the world in terms of a soulful *yatra* experience.

Ayodhya has at least three walkable *parikrama* paths, the shortest being within the city and the longer ones being 5 and



Instead of museums meant for the remains of dead societies, we can create spaces where the living traditions can be experienced first-hand. ... Let visitors learn how to make flower garlands used in all kinds of *Ramayana* performances or to sing and dance, creating an ecosystem that sustains the art and the artists

14 kos or roughly 15 and 42 kilometres. These can be made into mud walking tracks like Govardhan *Parikrama* in Braj, with native trees mentioned in the *Ramayana* and facilities to rest under them. More importantly, halts on these paths can be documented, their stories narrated by the priests or through other mediums. The whole design can keep the pilgrim rooted in the aura of Ayodhya.

Instead of museums meant for the remains of dead societies, we can create spaces where the living traditions can be experienced first-hand. There are ample *Ramayana* performances from around the world that can be invited to perform here. It can be the place to nurture all forms of arts, at least the 64 that are mentioned repeatedly in our scriptures. Let the visitors learn how to make flower garlands or masks used in all kinds of *Ramayana* performances or to sing and dance or tell stories, creating an ecosystem that sustains the art and the artists.

Ayodhya is full of *tirthas* or sacred water bodies, despite the city being located on the banks of the perennial Sarayu river. All of these can be rejuvenated with their annual celebrations performed as prescribed. This might just help us reconnect and

respect our water bodies and give another reason for pilgrims to visit the city.

India has always led the world spiritually. Divinity here has attracted pilgrims and travellers since time immemorial. Most of our pilgrimage places are displaced, with their original sacred geography distorted. Ayodhya gives us a unique opportunity to recreate the sacred geography that leverages modern technologies but stays rooted in the Indic philosophy of *yatra*.

What is the Indic way to travel? Well, it is a deeply conscious travel to widen your horizon, learn, build your endurance and travel as much inwards as outwards. It is an opportunity to engage in serving others for instance through *Gau Seva* and charity like *Anna Dana*, to indulge in experiential learning of art and craft, to meet people unlike you from far and wide and exchange knowledge and experiences. It need not be your regular luxury holiday place with an artificial swimming pool. Instead of world cuisine on a platter, let the food from temples delight you the way it does in Puri.

Let Ayodhya define, showcase and lead with an Indic model of tourism.

(Tweets @anuradhagoyal)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Another fire accident

This is with reference to *Blaze in ICU ward at Maha hospital kills at least 10* (Nov 7). The fire accident in Maharashtra is at least the fourth in recent times in the state. It shows how the government has still not enforced fire safety measures even in the hospitals it runs.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Empty promises

At least 10 patients have been killed in the fire accident at the hospital in Ahmednagar. However, people may rest assured that this would be the last such tragedy in Maharashtra. Because, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a "high-level inquiry" and given the assurance that "strict action will be taken".

PG Menon, Chennai

TN capital flooded

It is unfortunate that Chennai has been flooded due to torrential downpour. The chief minister of Tamil Nadu did well to convene a meeting of officials well in advance to combat the monsoon rains. Nevertheless, subways and many low-lying areas have been inundated. This shows the lacklustre attitude of officials and the slow action taken before the rains. Now that Chembarambakkam lake waters have been released, people are even more apprehensive. The Northeast monsoon will last till December, so officials all over the state should be on alert.

Rajakumar Arulanantham, Palayamkottai

Oblivious to ground reality

This is with reference to *The politics of inverted binoculars* (Nov 7). It is

common for BJP top leaders addressing meetings in party-ruled states, especially those where elections are coming up, to extol the government and magnify its achievements oblivious to the fact that the ground realities might well be a shade different. How long would the electorate fall for these whitewash jobs and cast their votes in favour of the BJP?

CV Aravind, Bengaluru

Tackle all pollution sources

This is with reference to *The cracker controversy: The way out* (Nov 6). Though India is a democracy, there are certain steps that have to be taken as they are in the interests of the people, even if it curbs their freedom. The ban on harmful crackers should not be festival-based but for the whole year. As a rule, India

should ban large-scale expulsion of smoke into the atmosphere—including stubble burning, smoke from industries and crackers. Stubble burning should be replaced by nature-friendly methods, which may be labour-intensive but worth the trouble. Such methods have been practised in the south for centuries. Only conscious efforts by all can bring results.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Double standards obvious

The article has clearly illustrated how double standards are being adopted and how the Hindu religion is considered an easy target due to its adaptive nature. Fireworks are definitely air pollutants and the SC has advised green crackers. But keeping mum on festivities of other faiths that too create pollution and not banning stubble burning show the skewed nature of the decision. Further,

pollution during Diwali is transient but that due to vehicles and industries are permanent. The government should also provide alternative employment to cracker industry workers.

RSridharan, Chennai

Cosmopolitan outlook

This is with reference to *Homes of Amartya Sen and November thoughts* (Nov 3). The author has offered a very fresh perspective on a topic that is highly relevant today. We all deal with displacement from our roots due to work or studies. Many of us end up with an identity crisis as we can sometimes find difficulty in relating to the people of our adopted land. The need of the hour is to cultivate a cosmopolitan outlook and never settle. It can be treated as a blessing in disguise.

Subrata Chakrabarti, T'puram



TWEETS
OF THE
DAY



Vasundhara Raje @VasundharaBJP
Tributes to Revolutionary #BipinChandra Pal on his birth anniversary. Trio of Lal, Bal, Pal gave new strength to the countrymen in the fight for independence.



Jairam Ramesh @Jairam Ramesh
In 2014/15, the Centre's collection from petroleum taxes was only 0.79 times that of all States combined. In 2020/21, this became 1.93 times!



Manish Sisodia @msisodia
Remembering Nobel laureate and Bharat Ratna Sir #CV Raman on his birth anniversary... He has created an indelible mark on the world of science.

'Be the bridge between party and people'

BJP not run by a family but by a culture of public service and dedication, PM tells party members at national meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed confidence that the BJP will win the trust of people in the upcoming assembly polls in five states — Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur — as the party has been taking up issues close to the people.

Addressing the valedictory session of the BJP's national executive, Modi asked members to become a "bridge of faith" between the party and the common man.

The BJP runs on the values of "Sewa, Sankalp aur Sampan" (service, resolution and commitment) and does not revolve around a family", Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav said quoting the prime minister. In a dig at the Congress, Modi said BJP is not run by a family but by a culture of public service and dedication.

According to sources, Modi pointed to the increasing foot prints of BJP in states where it is not in power and mentioned its win in Telangana bypolls,

its improved performance in Ellenabad assembly by-election in Haryana and local body elections in Tamil Nadu, besides a rise in its vote share in an Andhra Pradesh by-election.

Chief Ministers and BJP presidents of four poll-bound states — UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur — gave a presentation on upcoming assembly elections. A similar presentation was given by Punjab unit president, noting that the state organisation has worked to fight on all assembly seats there in the upcoming polls.

Modi recalled the welfare work done by BJP workers during the Covid-19 pandemic and said that the ruling party has always focused on serving the people.

The prime minister also spoke about a new initiative of Kamal Pushp launched on the Namo App for paying tributes to all party workers who devoted their entire life to the party. He asked party members to be in touch with veteran workers, saying a lot could be learnt from them.



Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Yogi Adityanath and others attend the BJP national executive committee meeting | PARVEEN NEGI

BJP resolution hails Modi leadership

NEW DELHI: With assembly elections in five states on its mind, the BJP leadership asked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to propose the political resolution in its national executive meeting with the chief ministers of the three other states pitching in.

The resolution praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and accused the opposition of "opportunism" and a mindset of "extreme hate".

Asked about the decision to pick Adityanath to propose the resolution, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman retorted, "why not?", while praising his work as the chief minister of India's largest state.

The resolution claimed that

the BJP is set for a big win in the four states due to the development works of its governments and its organisational strength.

The resolution was largely devoted to lauding PM Modi's leadership over a range of issues — from the Covid-19 vaccination programme to his stand on climate change. Sitharaman asserted that his government has restored faith in governance in India and built the country's image abroad. India has played an active role in the domain of foreign policies and ensured that it is heard, she told reporters.

The resolution said India is setting new standards of success globally under Modi but

the opposition is solely acting out of "extreme hate". It was busy derailing the Covid vaccination programme by spreading disinformation. "Opposition parties practised opportunistic politics. They never hit the road during the pandemic and confined themselves to Twitter to spread suspicion," she said in the briefing on the resolution.

The resolution also attacked the Trinamool Congress for "sponsored violence" against BJP workers in Bengal and vowed to ensure justice through legal means. With farmer protest over agri laws still continuing, the BJP highlighted the government's programmes for their welfare. PTI

Cong questions BJP silence on China

New Delhi: Questioning the BJP's "silence" on border issues with China, the Congress on Sunday dubbed the ruling party as "pseudo nationalist" and asked if it would speak out the "truth" about the "threat on our borders" and China's growing influence in the neighbourhood. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera cited a news report about China building infrastructure in Chumbi valley which poses a serious threat to the Siliguri corridor that connects the Northeastern states to the rest of India. He said the developments in Afghanistan are only helping Pakistan and China, while India pays a price for whatever happens in its neighbourhood. "But, we don't hear a word being spoken by this government," he said. Earlier in the day, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju hit out at the Congress for quoting a foreign media report to question the "credibility" of the government. PTI

Punjab govt slashes petrol price by ₹10

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

AHEAD of assembly elections early next year, the Congress-led Punjab government on Sunday announced a reduction in the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel in the state, making them cheaper by ₹10 and ₹5, respectively, from midnight.

Petrol will now cost ₹95 per litre in the state instead of ₹105 while diesel will be sold at ₹83.75 a litre down from ₹88.75.

Announcing the decision after a cabinet meeting, Chief

Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said Punjab now has the lowest petrol rates in the region (except the Union territory of Chandigarh) and the diesel price is also much lower than in Haryana and Rajasthan.

The government's decision has brought down the VAT on petrol from 27.27% to 15.15% and on diesel from 17.57% to 10.91%.

This is the first time in last 20 years that the state has slashed petrol and diesel prices. Channi

claimed that such a big rate cut was unheard of in the last 70 years. The move will cost the state nearly ₹6,000 crore.

Taking a dig at the BJP-led government at the Centre, Channi said that it is really unfortunate on the part of its leadership to slash the prices of petrol and diesel by from November 4 thereby cutting down the excise duty, which adversely impacts the income of all states including Punjab, which has 42 per cent share in the excise

duty collected by Centre.

In neighbouring Haryana, the government had reduced VAT on petrol and diesel on Thursday, making them cheaper in the BJP-JJP-ruled state by ₹12 per litre. Prices of petrol and diesel in the state now stand at ₹95.27 and ₹86.51, respectively.

"People have been burdened so much in the past years, but we are taking steps to provide relief to them in every sector," Channi said, pointing at his government's decisions like reduction in electricity rates.

EXPRESS READ

SC to hear Lakhimpur violence matter today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the matter related to the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed in violence during a farmers' protest. A bench comprising CJI N V Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli would hear the matter.

Assassination threat to PM Modi and Yogi

Lucknow: A Twitter user on Sunday posed a threat to assassinate PM Narendra Modi and UP CM Yogi Adityanath by bomb, following which UP Police started an investigation. "The matter came to light, as we got information about this threat from UP 112 (police helpline). Somebody has made mischief on Twitter," DCP (Crime) P K Tiwari said.



Coast Guard men onboard ICGS Arush douse a fire on a fishing boat in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast on Sunday. They rescued seven fishermen | PTI

SAVIOURS

ITBP to build roads and foot tracks along China border

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a first, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police will construct roads and foot tracks along the Line of Actual Control to boost connectivity projects with its posts in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given a go-ahead to the force to deploy its specialised engineering wing for constructing certain roads along the LAC, amid a military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Of the total 32 roads sanctioned under phase-II of the India-China Border Roads

project, the ITBP will construct four and of the 18 foot tracks sanctioned, it will build two tracks, sources said. The roads of the lengths of about one-two km mainly fall in Ladakh region whereas the foot tracks, used by troops during patrols, are in Arunachal.

Usually road construction projects along these areas are carried out by Border Roads Organisation, Central Public Works Department and other such agencies. Officials said the ITBP's engineering wing has been roped in for the task in order to speed up the border posts connectivity work.

POPULARITY

PM's approval rating matter of pride: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SEVERAL BJP leaders and Union ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has once again topped the global approval rating and emerged as the most popular leader with 70% approval rate among 13 world leaders including US President Joe Biden.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi becoming the world's most popular leader again with Zee's 70% Global Approval Rating is a matter of pride and honor for the entire country. This is the result of the people's faith in the hard-working and visionary leadership of Modi ji to realize the resolve of Antyodaya and self-reliant India," Shah tweeted.

This is the third time this year that PM Modi emerged with the highest approval rating in the polls conducted by Morning Consult Political Intelligence. While the latest approval rating has been updated in the first week of November, in September too, Modi had a 70% approval rating, the highest among 13 world leaders.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that the latest rating puts Modi "right on top of the list of most loved & popular world leaders. A people's favourite due to policies of inclusive development & strong leadership".

MALIK SWIPE

'Not scared to step down if big people in Delhi ask me'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati/Jaipur

TAKING a veiled dig at the Centre and the BJP brass, Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday said if he speaks about farmers, there will be a controversy. "After I make a statement, I wait for two weeks wondering if I am going to get a call from Delhi," Malik said at a programme in Jaipur.

He, nevertheless, went on to attack the Centre and the BJP over the issue. Leaders in Delhi send their condolences even when a dog dies but none expressed grief on the death of '600' farmers during the agitation against the three agri laws, he said.

Malik said he was speaking against the wishes of "two-three big people" in Delhi by whom he was appointed, but would not hesitate a minute to quit the gubernatorial post. "I am fully aware that what I say will create problems for them. The day they will ask me...I will not waste a minute (in tendering my resignation)," he said.

"A governor cannot be removed but my well-wishers (read critics) wait that I say something and get removed. They write on Facebook asking, 'Governor saab, if you feel it so much, why you don't resign?'" Malik said.

Gehlot cabinet expansion may take place next week

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAJASTHAN Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot may expand his government next week. He is scheduled to visit Delhi after November 10 and meet Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, former president Rahul Gandhi and national general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal to discuss possible names to be included in the cabinet.

Gehlot is likely to expand his cabinet by November 12 as three of his ministers — Shanti Dhariwal, Parsadi Lal Meena and Bharosi Lal Jatav — will be on a visit to Dubai till November 18 to prepare for investment summit.

As per sources, the high command wants cabinet expansion

and political appointments to be done as soon as possible so that party workers and MLAs can be satisfied before the third anniversary of the Gehlot government in December.

After the victory in the recent by-election, CM Gehlot is looking stronger. Sources within the party said the high command may give him a free hand in cabinet expansion and appointments. In such a situation, a cloud of doubt hangs over the demands of the Sachin Pilot camp, which has claimed ministerial berths and political and organisational posts.

Earlier, there were speculations about some ministers being dropped but after the bypoll victory, their chair is considered safe.



RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

DELHI'S Safdarjung railway station on Sunday was decorated with flowers and red carpets were rolled out to accord a warm welcome to people travelling by the first AC deluxe tourist train to religious places associated with Lord Ram under the Ramayan Circuit.

From the station entry to the coaches, cutouts of Lord Ram were put up to give a feel of re-

ligiosity to the tourists. The train carrying 132 tourists started the first Ramayan Circuit yatra under the centre's 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'.

Covering a distance of more than 7,500 km, the train will take the pilgrims to all the important places associated with Lord Ram such as Ayodhya, Prayag, Nandigram, Janakpur, Chitrakoot, Sitamarhi, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram.

The IRCTC has started this

yatra service by the train that is equipped with ultra modern onboard facilities like first-class restaurants, library and shower cubicles.

Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways, said the first Ramayan Circuit train was an innovative effort of the Indian Railways. "At the first stoppage at Ayodhya, the pilgrims will be taken to have a darshan of Ram Lalla and the Hanumangarhi. The train will

then move on to Sitamarhi in Bihar where Sita was born. The passengers will also be taken to the Ram-Janaki temple in Nepal," a IRCTC source said.

Railway has plans to run three more Ramayan Circuit trains this month and another on January 20. The IRCTC has charged a fare of ₹1,02,095 per passenger for AC first class and ₹82,950 for AC second class. The fares include the cost of food and other services.



Country's first Ramayan circuit train chugs off on 17-day journey

LUXURY PILGRIMAGE

Aryan skips summons, 2 others appear before SIT

Special team takes over drug cases involving Khan, minister's in-law

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ARYAN Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, citing health reasons, skipped appearing on Sunday before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) which had summoned him for questioning in the cruise ship drug-bust case.

Khan was asked to record his statement between 6 pm and 8 pm on Sunday. However, he told the SIT that he was suffering from mild fever and wouldn't appear before it on the day but will do so on Tuesday. The SIT had also summoned Arbaaz Merchant and Achet Kumar for questioning in connection with the case and both reappeared before the SIT on Sunday.

After a slew of serious allegations against NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede made by NCP minister Nawab Malik, the agency has launched a vigilance probe against the IPS officer after removing him from investigating the drug case. The NCB has set up the SIT to probe all serious charges against Wankhede and six other cases, including the case in-



Aryan Khan has cited health reasons to skip the summons by the SIT of NCB | FILE

MALIK'S RELATIVE TO BE QUIZZED

The SIT is also expected to record the statement of Nawab Malik's son-in-law in connection with a drugs case. Sameer Khan, who is currently out on bail, was arrested by the NCB in January this year

volving Sameer Khan, son in law of Nawab Malik.

Deputy Director-General Sanjay Kumar Singh, heading the SIT, said that a fair and impartial investigation would be done in the cases taken over by his team. The SIT team is also expected to record the statement of Nawab Malik's son-in-law in connection with a drugs case. Sameer Khan, who is out on bail, was arrested by the

NCB in January this year.

In another development, Sunil Patil, the alleged middleman in the Aryan Khan case claimed that the Bollywood superstar's son was included in the case later on the behest of some BJP leaders.

BJP leader Mohit Kamboj had earlier accused Patil of being the mastermind in the case and alleged that he was connected with the NCP. However, Patil refuted this. "The real mastermind behind Aryan Khan case is BJP leader Manish Bhanushali along with Dhiraj Bhanushali, Niraj Yadav and Sam Desouza. The tip of the rave party was given by Niraj Yadav who is close to a national-level BJP leader," Patil further said.

'Experienced' hands to secure Srinagar

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE CRPF has pulled out its men from north and south Kashmir to deploy them in sensitive Srinagar instead of directly inducting new companies that are being rushed to the restive Union Territory.

CRPF spokesman Abhiram Pankaj told this newspaper that some companies have been inducted in Srinagar after they were pulled out from north and south Kashmir. Terming it "rationalisation" of troops, he said none from the new companies arriving in the Valley are being deployed in Srinagar.

This newspaper had on October 23 reported that 5,000 more additional troops were being

rushed to the Valley after surge in militant violence, especially targeted killings of migrant labourers in Srinagar.

Another security official said after the arrival of additional companies, there has been internal re-deployment of paramilitary personnel.

"The new companies coming to the Valley don't have enough experience. They will gain the experience during their stay in Kashmir. New companies have not been deployed at sensitive areas, including Srinagar, and have been deployed at static locations like security installations or residences of VIPs," he said adding, "New companies have been deployed in less sensitive and less vulnerable are-



as. The CRPF men who have been for a longer duration in Kashmir understand the situation better and they are deployed for crowd dealing".

Asked whether pulling out troops from north and south Kashmir would create security gaps, the official replied in the

negative. "The additional companies that arrived in the Valley to strengthen the security apparatus have already been deployed there."

On deployment of CRPF personnel in Srinagar, he said the force is well versed in dealing with the situation.

EXPRESS READ

Militants shoot cop to death in Srinagar

Srinagar: Militants on Sunday evening shot dead a policeman in Batamloo area of Srinagar. A police official said militants fired from close range at constable Tawseef Ahmad Wani outside his residence. The policeman sustained bullet injury on head and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

Police and paramilitary personnel have launched a combing operation to track down the militants.

Surge in Char Dham pilgrims thanks to jab

Dehradun: More than 4.6 lakh pilgrims have visited Char Dham shrines this year till Saturday. However, the figure is still far short of the pre-Covid times. Officials attributed the surge in footfall to country-wide vaccination programme to curb the pandemic. Dr Harish Gaur, media in-charge of Char Dham Devasthanam Board, said, "Control in the Covid spread and excellent management has made it possible for pilgrims to visit without any hassle."

WANKHEDE PART OF ARYAN KIDNAP PLOT, CLAIMS MALIK

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NCP minister Nawab Malik dropped a new bombshell on Sunday, calling the Aryan Khan drug case a "well-planned" kidnapping and ransom plot by the BJP and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai Zonal director Sameer Wankhede.

Aryan, the son of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, was last month arrested following a raid led by Wankhede on a cruise ship from which drugs were allegedly seized. He was later re-

leased on bail. Malik said revelations by Prabhakar Sail, bodyguard of K P Gosavi, and the statement of others including Sam D'Souza establish that ₹25 crore as ransom was demanded by Wankhede and his private army - Gosavi, Manish Bhanushali and D'Souza - from Shah Rukh's manager for Aryan's release.

He said that the deal was finalised at ₹18 crore: ₹8 crore for Wankhede and the rest for his private team.

"As a part of the deal, the ₹50

lakh was sent through the hawala, and ₹17.50 crore was scheduled to be sent later. But Gosavi's selfie with Aryan went viral and botched the ransom plan. One selfie cost them ₹18 crore," Malik quipped.

Malik alleged that Shah Rukh and his manager were threatened with adverse consequences if they spoke out against the NCB.

"There will be no case against them. The case will be against Sameer Wankhede and his private army," he claimed.

"Friend Pratik Gaba and another person, Amir Furniturewala, invited Aryan for the cruise party. They were helped by Rishab Sachdeva, brother-in-law of BJP leader Mohit Kamboj aka Bhartiya. So, it was a well-planned trap set by the BJP and Sameer Wankhede to kidnap Aryan and arrest him in the name of a rave party," alleged Malik, whose son-in-law was arrested in January by the NCB.

Malik has repeatedly called the cruise drugs raid fake and sought to fix Wankhede.



Nawab Malik

Aryan skips SIT summons

Aryan Khan failed to appear before the NCB's Special Investigation Team on Sunday, citing fever

Bombay HC extends ED custody of Deshmukh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

A vacation bench of the Bombay High Court on Sunday set aside a special holiday court's order which had remanded former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh to judicial custody, and instead sent him to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till November 12 in connection with a money laundering case.

The special holiday court had earlier declined the ED's demand for further custody of Deshmukh.

However, the high court reversed the decision after Deshmukh's counsels said he was willing to face custodial probe for around four days and consented that the special court order be set aside.

The ED moved the HC on Saturday night challenging the special court order.

The ED arrested Deshmukh on November 2 and was granted his custody for four days, until Saturday, by a holiday court. On Saturday, special judge Prashant R Sitre rejected ED's plea seeking another nine days of Deshmukh's custody.

The ED probe has claimed that Deshmukh, while in office as the home minister, "Received



illegal gratification of approximately ₹4.7 crore in cash from various orchestra bar owners" between December 2020 and February 2021 through now-dismissed Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze.

According to the ED, Deshmukh's family "laundered the tainted sum of ₹4.18 crore and projected it as untainted by showing the same amount as received by a trust, namely Shri Sai Shikshan Sanstha".

The ED probe into Deshmukh's financial transactions is in line with the CBI probe into former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh's allegations of corruption against the NCP leader. The CBI initiated a preliminary probe based on an April 5 HC order and registered FIR on April 21. Deshmukh has denied all the allegations.

Sidhu accuses AG of working for political gains

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday hit back at the Advocate General of Punjab, APS Deol, a day after the latter accused him of "interfering" in the works of Punjab government and "spreading misinformation". Sidhu said that despite being the highest law officer in the state, Deol's focus was on politics and political gain.

In a series of 12 tweets Sidhu wrote, "Mr AG-Punjab, justice

PERSISTENTLY SOUGHT AG'S REMOVAL

Sidhu had been demanding that Deol be replaced ever since he was appointed as the AG in September. Deol had accused him of "interfering" in the works of Punjab government

is blind but people of Punjab are not. Our Congress party came into power with a promise to give justice in sacrilege cases, in which you appeared before the high court for the main conspirators and made serious allegations against our government."

"Further, you specifically

prayed for transferring the investigation to the CBI as you were afraid of 'false implication in sacrilege cases on accounts of ulterior motives on the part of political party in power in Punjab'," he said.

Sidhu further wrote, "Today, you are representing the same government of the same politi-

cal party in power and accusing me of spreading misinformation, whereas, I am fighting for justice in sacrilege cases and you were procuring blanket bail for the accused."

In his last tweet, Sidhu wrote: "A person of character does the right thing for the right reason with the right motive. Your earnest inaction is clearly subverting justice."

Sidhu had been demanding that Deol be replaced ever since he was appointed as the AG in September.



Mr AG-Punjab, Justice is blind but people of Punjab are not. Our party came into power with a promise to give justice in sacrilege cases, in which you appeared before the high court for the main conspirators

Navjot Singh Sidhu, Punjab Cong chief

RIGHT CHOICE

This farmer promises better income, health from black wheat

HARPREET BAJWA @ Mohali

A builder-turned-farmer in Punjab is growing black wheat, a variety of the foodgrain developed by National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) based here, for health benefits and better earnings.

Forty-five-year-old Amarpreet Singh Hira, who is a builder by profession but has a passion for agriculture, is growing the black wheat for the second consecutive year in his

farm in Saifalpur village of Ropar district. Talking to this newspaper he says: "Last year for the first time I grew black wheat on just five acres. This year I will grow it on 10 acres."

Hira says the benefits of black wheat include improvement in glycemic control and inflammatory profile in patients with type-II diabetes. "As it is gluten-free, the grain is rich in anthocyanin. This variety of wheat is reported to have between 100 to 200 parts per



More farmers are visiting Hira's farm to know about the grain variety | EXPRESS

million (PPM) of anthocyanin while normal wheat has a concentration of just 5 PPM. This makes black wheat a healthy option. Also, it has high iron and zinc content."

However, the yield of black wheat is less per acre. "The yield of this variety is around 16 quintals per acre as compared to 22 to 24 quintals of normal wheat," he says.

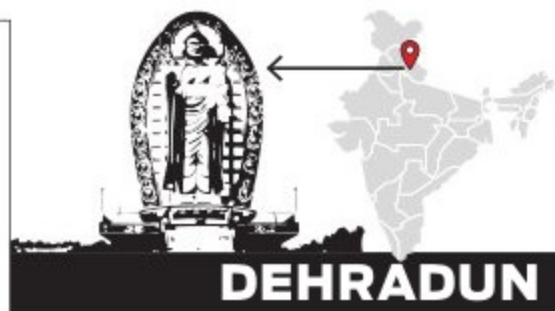
Besides health benefits, the farmer makes more earning from the grain. "We are selling it for ₹4,500 per quintal in open market as compared to the normal wheat which is sold at ₹1,980 (MSP)."

Dr Monica Garg, scientist-E at NABI who developed the variety says: "I have done my PhD from Japan and got the original gremlasam from my professor and crossed it with the Indian wheat at NABI. It took seven years to develop this variety."



Cong to give 20% tickets to ex-servicemen in polls

Former CM and Congress leader Harish Rawat has announced 20 per cent preference for ex-service personnel in ticket distribution of the party. "In the upcoming Assembly elections, the Congress party will prefer ex-service personnel from the armed forces on at least 14 seats. Once we form government, a committee will be formed to look into the concerns of our ex-servicemen. To take care of concerns of the soldiers is a national duty of the Congress party," said Rawat. The step is said to be a counter move to tackle the BJP's narrative of caring for the armed forces. The move is also a counter to the AAP's decision to field a former Army officer as its CM face.



VINEET UPADHYAY

Our correspondent in Dehradun

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DEHRADUN DIARY

Voters above 80 may get vote-from-home facility

In a first, Uttarakhand voters aged 80 years and above will get the facility to cast vote from home through postal ballot. Sowjanya, Uttarakhand's chief electoral officer (CEO) who does not use a second name said, "The decision has been taken in this regard while the voter list preparation is going on in the state. The state has 1,65,113 voters above 80 years of age including 71,537 males and 93,576 females." Assembly elections are due in Uttarakhand in March 2022. The hill state has a total of 78,46,000 voters including 40,87,018 males and 37,58,982 females. The state has a total of 11,647 polling booths. However, this number could change before the publication of final electoral roll on January 5, 2022. The differently-abled voters are numbered at 53,900 including 34,832 males and 19,067 female.

Better AQI in cities compared to last year

Major cities of Uttarakhand have showed improvement in air quality after Diwali festival this year in comparison to corresponding period last year. Haridwar's air quality index (AQI) registered an improvement with the figure dipping to 321 from 352 last year. The AQI of Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district was also down to 267 from 314. SP Subudhi, member secretary of the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board said, "AQI crossing 300 anywhere is a serious sign that we have crossed threshold in terms of air pollution. This could affect every aspect of our lives including quality of life and longevity."



Students not satisfied with fee cut for MBBS

As the state government has announced reduction of MBBS course fee in government medical colleges in Uttarakhand from ₹4 lakh per year to ₹1.45 lakh, students said the fee must be further reduced to around ₹50,000-60,000 per year. In Uttarakhand the fees for MBBS in government medical colleges was ₹4,26,500 lakh per year while in other states such as Uttar Pradesh it is ₹36,000 per year, and ₹5,000 in Assam. MBBS students of 2019 and 2020 batches in Government Doon Medical College, Dehradun have been protesting with a demand for reduction in the fee.

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Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

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This photo released by Iraqi government shows damages caused by a drone attack on the residence of Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in Baghdad | AP

Iraq PM narrowly survives drone attack on home

Alleged assassination attempt comes amid protests by a pro-Iran group over poll result

BAGHDAD

IRAQ'S Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi survived an assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted his residence early Sunday and officials said he was unharmed. The attack was a major escalation amid tensions sparked by the refusal of Iran-backed militias to accept last month's parliamentary election results.

Two Iraqi officials said that seven of al-Kadhimi's security guards were injured in the attack with two armed drones which occurred in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone area. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to give official statements.

"I am fine and among my people. Thank God," the prime minister tweeted shortly after the attack. He called for calm and restraint, "for the sake of Iraq."

He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk in a white shirt, looking calm and composed. "Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands and don't build a future," he said.

In a statement, the government said an explosives-laden drone tried to hit al-Kadhimi's home. Residents of Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by heavy gunfire from the direction of the Green Zone, which houses foreign embassies and government offices.

The statement released by state-run media said security

forces were "taking the necessary measures in connection with this failed attempt."

There was no immediate claim for the attack. It comes amid a stand-off between security forces and pro-Iran Shiite militias whose supporters have been camped outside the Green Zone for nearly a month after they rejected the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections in which they lost around two-thirds of their seats.

"The assassination attempt is a dramatic escalation, crossing a line in unprecedented fashion that may have violent reverberations," wrote Ranj Alaaldin, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, in a post on Twitter.

Protests turned deadly Friday when the demonstrators tried to enter the Green Zone. Security forces used tear gas and live ammunition. There was an exchange of fire in which one protester affiliated with the militias was killed.

Some of the leaders of the most powerful militia factions loyal to Iran openly blamed al-Kadhimi for Friday's clashes and the protester's death.

"The blood of martyrs is to hold you accountable," said Qais al-Khazali, leader of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia, addressing al-Kadhimi at a funeral held for the protester on Saturday. "The protesters only had one demand against fraud in elections. Responding like this (with live fire) means you are the first responsible for this fraud." AP

Probe sought as Pak journo who exposed Arab hunting trips killed

ISLAMABAD

AN international media watchdog is demanding an independent probe into the killing of a Karachi-based amateur video reporter, who posted clips about illegal hunting of the endangered Houbara bustards by Arab dignitaries in Pakistan.

Nazim Jokhio, who hailed from Karachi's Malir area, was murdered on Wednesday after posting a video, in which he said that he had been receiving threats about the videos he had posted on illegal hunting trips by wealthy Arabs in Pakistan. "I am not scared. I am get-

ting threats and will not apologise," Jokhio said in the video. The clip ends after a man is seen approaching the camera, who grabs it and issues a threat to Jokhio.

Hours after the clip was posted, Jokhio's body was recovered on November 3, near the farmhouse of Pakistan Peoples Party lawmaker Jam Awais in Jam Goth in Sindh province, Memon Goth Station House Officer Khalid Abbasi said. The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in a statement issued on Friday called for an independent investigation into the murder, saying the culprits



Nazim Jokhio

must be identified and brought to justice. Jokhio's brother Afzal has alleged that Awais was involved in the murder, as the lawmaker was miffed because the Arabs were his guests.

Police have registered a case of murder after members of the Jokhio community staged a sit-in on the National Highway near Karachi.

After pressure was built by the protestors, Awais surrendered to the police on Thursday, offering to become part of the probe, police officials said. Jokhio's death is yet another grim reminder of The International Federation of Journalists' list, which puts Pakistan among the top five most dangerous countries for practice of journalism in the world.

Hunting the endangered Houbara bustard is banned in

Pakistan. However, as part of foreign policy measures, exceptions are made for wealthy Arab dignitaries, who consider this meat to be an aphrodisiac.

This episode has resulted in a lot of criticism, but the practice of poaching has been going on unabated for some time now in Pakistan.

In 2014, there was an uproar after Saudi Arabian Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud is believed to have poached over 2,100 Houbara bustards during a 21-day hunting expedition in Balochistan province. PTI

SRI LANKA

At least 5 killed, 4,000 stranded amid heavy rains

At least five people have died and more than 4,000 marooned in Sri Lanka due to heavy rains, the country's disaster management authority said on Sunday. The fatalities were reported from north, central, south and northwestern regions of the country, National Disaster Management Centre said. Some districts are bound to receive rains over 150 millimeters, it said. The National Building Research Organisation warned that people must stay on alert for landslides and rockfalls as the rainfall over the last 24 hours has exceeded 100 millimeters. The spill gates of some of the main reservoirs have been opened due to the persistent heavy rainfall, officials in the country's irrigation department said.

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Diwali function to be hosted at temple attacked last year

The Pakistan Hindu Council will organise a grand function on Monday to celebrate Diwali at a century-old temple in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which was vandalised and set on fire by a mob led by a radical Islamist party last year. Pakistan's Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad has been invited by the Council to celebrate the festival of lights at the Teri Temple in Karak. The Dawn newspaper reported. The grand function to celebrate Diwali is being organised by the Pakistan Hindu Council, which will also host a large number of pilgrims from the Sindh and Balochistan.

SINGAPORE

Cases of rare paediatric syndrome reported amid Covid

Singapore has reported emerging cases of a rare virus-linked paediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome amidst rising number of Covid-19 cases as it tries to arrest the spread of the contagion. The country reported 3,035 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday and 12 deaths due to complications linked to the coronavirus. Four infections are among over 8,000 paediatric Covid-19 cases that are "considered rare" and are emerging since the start of the pandemic, the Health Ministry said in the statement. All four—age ranging from two months to eight years—were admitted to hospital between October and November this year, according to media reports. Of these four cases, one four-year-old is in the children's intensive care unit with breathing support.

ARE YOU FLYING?

No curbs on vaccinated visitors to US from today

WASHINGTON

MORE than a year and a half after Covid-19 concerns prompted the US to close its borders to international travelers from countries including Brazil, China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and much of Europe, restrictions are shifting to focus on vaccine status.

Beginning Monday, bans on travel from specific countries are over. The US will allow in international travelers, but they must be vaccinated.

The US is also reopening the land borders with Canada and Mexico for vaccinated people. Most trips from Canada and Mexico to the US are by land rather than air. Airline reservations to the US took off immediately after the White House announced the country would reopen to all vaccinated international voyagers starting next week, compelling a welcome — if challenging — industry pivot.



The long-awaited US move to welcome back international travelers — which takes effect on Monday — follows 18 months of restrictions for 33 countries during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic that separated families, impeded business travel and frustrated tourists.

Big carriers including Air France, United Airlines and Singapore Airlines are scrambling to meet the sudden surge in demand, adding flights, swapping in bigger planes for smaller ones and redoubling efforts to hire and retain staff.

Just after the White House announcement, British Airways saw a 900 per cent jump in searches for flights to major US destinations. Agencies

EXPRESS READ

North Korea conducts artillery firing drill

Pyongyang: North Korea has conducted artillery firing exercises to bolster its defence capability, state media reported on Sunday. An artillery firing competition among mechanised units was held on Saturday, with senior government and military officials present, the official Korean Central News Agency reported. Leader Kim Jong Un was not mentioned in the report, suggesting he did not observe the training.

Pak cabinet drops ban on Islamist party

ISLAMABAD

THE Pakistan federal cabinet has approved the de-proscription of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), after the political party and the government had struck a secretive deal, *Geo News* reported.

The federal cabinet approved the removal of the party's proscribed status through a circulation summary sent by the Interior Ministry, sources said, which mentioned that TLP has assured the government it will

not organise violent protests in the future.

Two days ago, Chief Minister of Punjab Usman Buzdar granted the initial approval to the summary sent to him by the Punjab home department for the revocation of the TLP's proscribed status, the *Geo News* report said.

After granting preliminary approval to the summary, Buzdar had sent it to the Ministry of Interior to take a final

decision regarding the matter through circulation.

In line with the deal struck with the TLP, the Punjab government has already removed the names of 48 party workers among 90 from the fourth schedule.

The provincial government also decided to release 100 other activists of the proscribed organisation from different jails in the province, the report said. On November 2, the govern-

ment began implementing the accord with TLP, with reports suggesting that it had released more than 800 supporters of the party arrested across Punjab.

The government signed an accord with the proscribed outfit on October 31, under which workers of the organisation who are not facing any formal criminal charges were to be released. The amnesty will also extend to the party's top leader, Saad Rizvi, the report said. Agencies

TALIBAN SOFTEN STANCE

For the past three years before taking control of Afghanistan, the Taliban had barred UN-organised vaccination teams from doing door-to-door campaigns in parts of the country under their control.

The group apparently was suspicious the team members could be spies for the previous government or the West.

The Taliban's reported endorsement of the campaign appeared aimed at showing the international community they are willing to cooperate with international agencies.

NO EASY TASK

"Vaccination of (children) less than five years of age in the country during the national immunisation days is a gigantic task. It is not possible for the ministry of public health alone to complete this task successfully, so we need the support of all lined departments," said Nek Wali Shah Momin, a health ministry official in the polio eradication department.

AFGHANISTAN BEGINS NATIONWIDE POLIO ERADICATION DRIVE

THE TALIBAN-RUN AFGHAN PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY THE START OF A FOUR-DAY NATIONWIDE POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT INOCULATING CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5



HURDLES AFTER HURDLES...

Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only countries in the world where polio remains endemic.

But, large sections of the country have been out of reach. In parts of the south, particularly, the ban by the Taliban was in effect.

In other areas, door-to-door campaigns were impossible because of fighting between the government and insurgents, or because of fears of kidnappings or roadside bombs.

Since 2010, the country has been carrying out regular inoculation campaigns in which workers go door to door, giving the vaccine to children.

In some places, hard-line clerics spoke out against vaccinations, calling them un-Islamic or part of a Western plot.

10 million
children under age 5, is the estimated target population

3.3 million
children over the past three years have not been vaccinated because of the ban and ongoing fighting

56 CASES OF POLIO REPORTED FROM AFGHANISTAN IN 2020

This is an extremely important step in the right direction
—Dapeng Luo, World Health Organization

ON A MISSION

She's set to be 1st Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole

LONDON

A 32-year-old British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist is on a mission to become the first Indian-origin female to complete a solo, unsupported trek to the South Pole and is flying out to Chile on Sunday to begin her adventure.

Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet, will be travelling 700 miles while pulling a pulk or sledge with all of her kit, battling temperatures

of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60 mph.

Writing on her online blog, she notes that the journey will take approximately 45-47 days during which she plans to upload a live tracking map for people to be able to follow her daily voice blogs. "I want to take as many of you as possible on this journey with me so I hope you enjoy following," writes Chandi. Currently based at a Medical Regiment in the north-west of



Harpreet Chandi

England, Chandi's primary role is to organise and validate training for medics in the Army as Clinical Training Officer.

She is completing her masters degree in Sports and Exercise Medicine, part time, at Queen Mary's University in London and has been using two large tyres as a substitute for the heavy sledge she will be dragging along in Antarctica for her polar training.

"Antarctica is the coldest, highest, driest and windiest

continent on earth. Nobody lives there permanently. I didn't know much about the continent when I first started planning and that is what inspired me to go there," she explains.

"Hopefully doing something that pushes me so far out of my comfort zone will inspire others to believe in themselves and push their boundaries. There are only a few female adventurers that have completed a solo, unsupported trek on this continent," she says. PTI

Samvat 2078: Expect low return, high volatility

Rising inflation could be the biggest threat to market; Rate hikes by the Federal Reserve may have negative impact

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

AFTER a spectacular Samvat 2077 (Hindu Calendar Year), investors should expect low return in Samvat 2078 amidst high volatility. In Samvat 2077, Nifty and Sensex delivered around 40% return, which was highest in 12 years.

The Sensex touched the 50,000-mark quite early this year and even surpassed the 60,000-level in September. Nifty index had scaled to 18,000-mark in one year from 12,700 level.

Every year on the occasion of Diwali, equity indices allow a symbolic one-hour trading session to mark the beginning of new Hindu Calendar Year. Bombay Stock Exchange has been organising this since 1957.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said that investors should expect modest returns only, say in low teens, in Samvat 2078. He adds that this Samvat is likely to be very volatile, unlike last Samvat.

Vijayakumar anticipates that rising inflation would be the biggest known threat to the market. Rate hikes by the Federal Reserve too can have a negative impact on the domestic market.

"Rate hikes by the Fed can happen by the end of 2022 or, perhaps, earlier than that if persistent inflation and the bond market force the Fed's

hands. Rate hikes by the Fed will lead to some capital flight from emerging markets like India and this is likely to trigger some sharp correction in the market. But the correction may turn out to be low and short-lived if the economy rebounds smartly," said Vijayakumar.

To note, the benchmark indices- BSE Sensex and Nifty50 have already seen a minor correction in recent sessions on account of global factors, downgraded by investment firms and mixed Q2FY22 earnings.

Krishna Kumar Karwa, Managing Director at Emkay Global Financial Services, said that macro headwinds like high oil prices, supply chain disruptions, the debate on transient versus structural inflation, the possibility of hardening interest rates across the globe, internal economic challenges in China and its global ramifications, and the ongoing US-China spat will keep global and local markets volatile.

He adds that the markets are currently not fully discounting these headwinds. "But having said that, stocks will track earnings and valuations, and to that extent, companies whose stock prices are reflecting the optimistic outlook 3-4 years down the line are most vulnerable to price and time corrections," said Karwa.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services' Head of Retail Research Siddhartha Khemka

said, "Some of the themes which we expect to play out during Samvat 2078 are certain segments where we can see earnings normalisation with improving economy, increasing spending to benefit companies in 'Technology, Travel, Tourism, leisure and QSR' segment."

He added, "Real Estate and ancillaries like cement and other building material companies are also expected to witness increasing demand. Finally, stock selection was the key in generating returns within the 'Midcap' space during Samvat 2077 - a trend which we believe could continue going ahead as well." In Samvat 2077, the BSE smallcap index zoomed 82.31% while midcap index had jumped 25.25%.

Samvat 2077 belonged to BSE Metals index (up 156%), BSE Realty (125%) and BSE Power (115%). The Samvat also saw record rise in value of crypto currencies and listing of highly valuable internet companies. This Samvat will also see record rise in such listings with India's largest fintech player Paytm launching its ₹18,300 crore initial public offering for subscription this week.



SOU MYADIP SINHA

CYBER SECURITY

CSDL's leak: 4 cr investors' data exposed

A vulnerability at a CDSL subsidiary, CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL), has exposed personal and financial data of over 4 crore Indian investors twice in a period of 10 days, according to cyber security consultancy startup CyberX9.

The Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) is a SEBI registered depository and CDSL Ventures Ltd is a KYC registering agency separately registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

CDSL said that CVL has taken immediate action and the vulnerability has been mitigated now.

According to CyberX9, it reported the vulnerability on October 19, to CDSL and the securities depository took around 7 days to fix it which could have been resolved immediately.

"We verified the fix before publication and it was no longer exploitable. Later, on October 29th, our research team got to work again and within a couple of minutes they found an easy and complete bypass for the fix that CDSL implemented to patch the earlier reported vulnerability."

"CERT-In and NCIIPC also accepted our vulnerability report for CDSL," CyberX9 Founder and Managing Director Himanshu Pathak told PTI.

The exposed data includes investors name, phone number, email address, PAN, income range, father's name, date of birth etc, CyberX9 said in its blog.

When contacted CDSL said that there has been no security issue or data vulnerability at CDSL. "CVL had received a vulnerability alert on the website of CVL which has since been mitigated. We would like to state that CVL took immediate actions to mitigate the vulnerability and have worked proactively to further address any other potential security issues," CDSL said.

Both the entities 'CDSL and CVL, as separate regulated entities with SEBI, have a clear arm's length relationship, CDSL said. CyberX9 said that the vulnerability was not highly complex the second time its team discovered it.

Equity MFs attract ₹40,000 cr in Sep qtr

STRONG inflows in new fund offers (NFOs) and a stable SIP book helped equity mutual funds attract a net investment of nearly ₹40,000 crore in the three months ended September 2021, a two-fold growth from the preceding quarter.

The inflow pushed the asset base of equity mutual funds (MFs) to ₹12.8 lakh crore by September-end, from ₹11.1 lakh crore at the end of June, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

As per the data, the equity category witnessed flows to the tune of ₹39,927 crore in September quarter, as compared to an inflow of ₹19,508 crore in the June quarter.

Equity mutual funds have been witnessing continuous inflows since March. Prior to this, equity schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021.

"Consistent equity inflows indicate positive sentiment among investors on the Indian equity market as the economy gains momentum, businesses rebound from pandemic disruption, abundant liquidity in the financial system and gov-

₹39,927 crore
Equity category witnessed inflow in September quarter

₹19,508 crore
Equity category witnessed inflow in June quarter

ernment's supportive stance aiming at speedy economic recovery," Mohit Nigam, Head-PMS, Hem Securities, said. During recent months, India's benchmark has gained the most among its Asian peers, making India one of the most favorable investment corners, he said. According to him, overall, data looks positive for the industry as equity and SIP numbers look supportive of more investor participation in mutual funds. Barring equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS) and value funds, all the categories have seen inflow during the September quarter.

The slew of heavyweight New Fund Offers and stable systematic investment plan (SIP) books have played a critical role in mobilising fresh inflows in equities.

Mutual fund experts said

that nearly 50% of net inflow in equity is attributable to NFOs as asset management companies (AMCs) try to complete their range as per markets regulator Sebi scheme categorization norms and some more through thematic launches.

Within the categories of equity funds, flexi-cap segment saw highest net infusion of ₹18,258 crore, followed by sectoral fundz that witnessed a net investment of ₹10,232 crore and focused funds that attracted ₹4,197 crore.

Further, multi-cap and mid-cap funds witnessed net inflow to the tune of ₹3,716 crore and Rs 3,000 crore respectively.

Moreover, investment through the SIP route surged to ₹29,883 crore in the September quarter from ₹26,571 crore in the June quarter. Besides,

monthly contributions to SIPs rose to an all-time-high of ₹10,351 crore in September from ₹8,596 crore in April.

"Good news on the SIP front continues with monthly input value finally crossing ₹10,000 crore in September. This is heartening as this is a significant jump from ₹8,000 crore the SIP book had shrunk to a year back. "This clearly highlights the improving appetite from retail as well as HNIs," Aashwin Dugal, Co-Chief Business Officer, Nippon India Mutual Fund said. With lower yields in debt instruments including banks FDs and flat returns in gold, equity is a preferred asset class, he added.

SIP is an investment vehicle that allows investors to invest small amounts periodically instead of lump-sum payment. The frequency of investment is usually weekly, monthly or quarterly. It is similar to a recurring deposit where investors deposit a small or fixed amount every month. Overall, mutual funds have seen a net inflow of ₹99,974 crore in three months ended September; from ₹69,625 crore in the previous quarter.

PTI

Sebi comes with norms for documents mismatch

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

IT is not very uncommon for agencies entrusted with the responsibility of issuing government documents like Aadhar, Voter Id cards, driving license, etc. to mess up with your official name. Invariably, they end up spelling your name incorrectly, omitting your middle name or committing other silly mistakes with your name.

So, what happens if there's a minor mismatch of name between any two sets of documents presented by an investor to the Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) for any service request? The capital market regulator - Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) - recently came out with a set of standard procedures to deal with such situations.

As per the new norms, for minor mismatch in name between any two set of documents, the RTA should additionally obtain any one of the following documents, explaining the difference in names - Aadhaar, passport, driving license, PAN card with photograph, marriage certificate, divorce decree or identity

card/document with applicant's photo, issued by central/state government and its departments, statutory/regulatory authorities, public sector undertakings, banks, public financial institutions.

RTAs are entities or institutions which register and keep record of transactions of investors. The existing norms of the depositories - entities where share, mutual fund units and debt securities are kept in electronic form - to process demat request where there is a minor mismatch of name, provided the signature in the Demat Request Form matches with the signature card with the RTA, will continue to be in force.

Then there are situations which arise due to minor or major mismatch of signatures of the holders of securities.

As per the new Sebi rules, in case of major mismatch in the signature of the holder as available in the folio of the RTA and the present signature or if the same is not available with the RTA, then the holder/claimant should furnish original cancelled cheque and banker's attestation of the signature in a particular format.

When you can expect interest rates to rise

SUYASH CHOUDHARY

TO say that interest rates have to rise is stating the obvious. Supply side pressures are real, India's growth is coming back strongly, and we cannot be immune to global developments. However, while this expectation makes for a good summary headline, it is equally important to scratch beneath the surface and enter the realm of nuance when one is talking about portfolio constructions and optimal strategies.

First, and what is noteworthy about these global developments as highlighted in yield curve movements above, is that the market is not resetting higher the peak policy rate expectations. If anything, these are being brought down, likely for the reasons mentioned above. In that sense, this is a very different global cycle than 2003-08 and will likely be much shallower, marked with significant global growth volatility from quarter to quarter. Thus, our lower-than-last-cycle peak rate expectation probably holds even for the arguably most near-term over-stimulated large global economy.

Second, India's realities are somewhat different than many other economies around the world. We rush to clarify that this observation is not meant

INDIA'S FISCAL RESPONSE

India's response was very nuanced last year focusing on direct spending for welfare of the most susceptible citizens, which turned even more nuanced this year. Given this, while supply side pressures are very much showing in India's inflation as well, CPI isn't on a runaway trajectory and second round permanent effects in terms of expectation setting are likely to be much more contained

to justify insulation to global developments (after all emerging markets will get constrained by tightening in developed economies) but to merely draw some distinctions around the likely path of policy ahead. In our view, the defining distinction for the intensity of the inflationary shock and its probable persistence is the quantum of the fiscal response administered as Covid response.

As is well known, the US saw an unprecedented fiscal stimulus over two calendar years, arguably much in excess of the size of the problem. Some other economies were relatively more modest in their response, but standalone still quite significant. Even some emerging

markets went aggressive with their fiscal expansion.

In contrast India's response was very nuanced last year focusing on direct spending for welfare of the most susceptible citizens while using credit and liquidity measures largely for the industry in general. With the crisis stabilising, the fiscal stance has turned even more nuanced this year with the year to date deficit the narrowest in many years on a variety of parameters. Given this, while supply side pressures are very much showing in India's inflation as well, CPI isn't on a runaway trajectory and second round permanent effects in terms of expectation setting are likely to be much more contained. This, and

RBI's aggressive accumulation of forex over the past year and a half, both provide some cushion to the central bank in charting a more 'localised' path to normalisation of policy.

It is also for this reason that we will not attempt to force-fit the bearish flattening of the curve in some of the advanced markets to India. The base case remains that in India's context, the absorption of gross duration supply is likely a greater dynamic to fear than the monetary policy normalisation ahead. The recent few weeks have been extremely tough for global rates, especially in some key developed markets. India has had its rub-off as well, as should be expected since it's hard to think about our markets in isolation.

That said, the differentiator in our view is our more nuanced fiscal response and the laser-focus from RBI in accumulating a forex defense. While even this doesn't insulate us, it does provide certain more degrees of freedom to monetary policy. After the recent sharp rise in yields, the interest rate swap market is no longer a cheap or effective way to hedge against the normalisation already underway.

(The author is Head of fixed income, IDFC Mutual Fund)

MONEY-WISE

COMMISSION AND OMISSION IN INVESTING

OUR portfolio is a function of 2 things - a) what we do and b) what we do not do. Acts of commission and acts of omission.

Clearly we did not start our lives by deciding what portfolio we should have - how much work, how much savings, how much investments, how much leisure it just fell into place.

After a few years of working, saving, spending, and investing, we thought we should give our investments a form and shape, right?

So if you started investing in the year 2010, in 2021, it is good time to look at one's portfolio and give it a structure. We will keep learning from many people - the 'Jagad' is our 'Guru' - so we are all JagadGurus!

Once when listening to the then Chairman of Hero Honda Motors, Munjal (Senior) he said, "Why Hero Honda, all 2 wheeler manufacturers will do well - the market is so big". I decided to hold HH, Suzuki, and Bajaj. True to his word all the 3 companies were multi baggers.

I held HH from 40 to ₹3000 - including bonus and split. Once the Jap partner parted I started selling HH and now hold nothing. Ditto for Suzuki. Currently I do not own any two wheeler shares.

So, it meant one act of buying HH and 25 years (100 quarters) of saying "NO" to selling HH. We (and our portfolios) are a function of what we do, and what we do not do also.

So my not buying Satyam (benefited) and my not buying Wipro (missed opportunity) have as much shaped my portfolio as buying Cummins or buying Siemens. remained the same. Imag-

ine the job of a portfolio manager of a venture capitalist.

In the investing world, we struggle with the urge to be active. However to be smart, you need NOT do anything! Smart investing is NOT about doing something all the while.

In fact, it is knowing why you should not act on your urges. Or even on tips. We are not picking the things we want to own. We're understanding why we shouldn't be trading most of the time.

A war is 361 days of preparation for a four-day war. Simple. Investing is about 361 days of research for a four-day trading.

The thing that makes investing so difficult is that it's analogous to ordering daal chawal (lentil and rice) in a restaurant while hundreds of sales people are explaining why chawal has carbs and is not good for you and the daal was cooked nine hours ago and lost all its nutrition. Some sales

guy is making a ULIP pitch which is going to protect you against inflation, market crashes, etc. Meanwhile, media is blaring in the background explaining how Active fund management is dead!

We are constantly bargained with news and events that trigger that urge to act. Not just act, but act now, before the brain can ask the noise to shut up. Noise is in the form of a phone-call, notification, television, newspaper, etc..

And 99% of the time you should say no to these sales people and just order your plain old daal chawal.

In my investing world, the plain old daal chawal is the Index fund and term insurance.



FINANCIAL
ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at
www.subramanyam.com
and has authored the
best seller Retire Rich -
Invest ₹40 a day'

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

TATA MOTORS

Current Price

₹490.05

Target Price

₹565



TTMT should witness a gradual recovery from 2QFY22 lows as supply-side issues ease and commodity headwinds stabilise (for the India business). It would gain from the triple benefits of: a) a macro recovery, b) company-specific volume/margin drivers, and c) sharp improvement in PFC and leverage in both JLR as well as the India business.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of The New Indian Express.

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Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala - 680 567

1, 1628, NITHYASHREE, 37000/-, CHAIN 1, 1941, SHIVANNA C, 24994/-, DROPS & STUD 4, 2031, BHARATH BABU B C, 6000/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 2077, MANJUNATHA 15000/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 2888, MOHANKUMAR H.L, 160160/-, BANGLE 1, 2892, KUMAR C R, 57300/- DROPS & STUD 4, 2893, MAHADEVA H, 9795/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2900, MOHANKUMAR H.L, 71000/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, 2904, SATHYA, 27500/-, CHAIN 1, 2915, MOHANKUMAR H.L, 70000/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, 2917, KIRAN KUMAR K, 10005/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2929, SRIDHAR HP, 20000/-, STUD 2, 2931, SRIDHAR HP, 93000/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, 2937, SHANKAR, 58000/-, CHAIN 1, 2951, SYED FAHAZ, 21450/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2953, SHIVAKUMAR S, 17500/-, CHAIN 1, 2966, NUTHAN RAJ K, 19000/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 2974, SYED FAHAZ, 16200/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 2974, SYED FAHAZ, 16200/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2977, RAMAMURTHY, 91900/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, 2978, KUMAR L, 12727/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2979, PRAHBU, 175717/-, BANGLE 1, BRACELET 1, CHAIN 2, 2982, GURUPRASAD K S, 64500/-, BANGLE 2, 2988, MOHAN M N, 73260/-, NECKLACE 1, 2990, RAJA, 12077/-, MATTI 2, 2991, MANASA, 15600/-, DROPS & STUD 4, 3001, NIVEDITHA N, 20000/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 3022, MOHAN KUMAR H.L, 120120/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, DROPS & STUD 2, 3027, VINKE GOWDAS K, 38707/-, CHAIN 1, 3028, SUPRAJA, 572300/-, DROPS 1, FINGER RINGS 1, NECKLACE 2, 3029, SUPRAJA, 99999/-, BRACELET 1, 3030, SUPRAJA, 19000/-, FINGER RINGS 2, 3032, AKASH B S, 23306/-, FINGER RINGS 2, STUD 2, 3037, PREETHI R, 67000/-, CHAIN 1, 3039, BHARATH K V, 60000/-, BRACELET 1, 3040, BHARATH K V, 57400/-, FINGER RINGS 2, 3043, VEENA BAI, 12300/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 3054, NAGARAJU D M, 4450/-, STUD 2, 3057, SRIDHAR HP, 14000/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 3059, VEENA BAI, 66181/-, BROAD BANGLES 1, DROPS & STUD 2, 3060, NOUSHAD KHAN, 26250/-, FINGER RINGS 3, 3061, KIRAN KUMAR K, 27000/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 3069, SHIVA KUMAR S, 89000/-, NECKLACE 1, 10611073001888, HARSHITH GOWDA M R, 27933/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 9394, MANJUNATHA THASVAMY N MUKRI, 54816/-, NECKLACE 1, 10611073002030, MANJUNATHA K P, 10909/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 2210, PRAVEEN KUMAR H, 38500/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 2990, N C BHAVYA, 27500/-, STUD 2, 3039, POORNIMA B, 17820/-, CHAIN 1, 3858, POORNIMA B, 9294/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 4321, RANGANATHA, 88670/-, CHAIN 1, 5885, VASANTHAKUMAR, 37565/-, CHAIN 1, 5988, DEEPIKA D, 23778/-, FINGER RINGS 1, MATTI 4, 7867, HARISH, 157567/-, BRACELET 1, CHAIN 1, FINGER RINGS 2, 7905, UMESH S B, 4899/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 7974, KEERTHIRAJ H, 72190/-, DROPS & STUD 2, NECKLACE 1, 7975, KEERTHIRAJ H, 159754/-, BANGLE 2, NECKLACE 1, 7976, MEENAKSHI N, 17084/-, DROPS & STUD 2, FINGER RINGS 1, 7987, SRIDHAR CS, 30914/-, DROPS & STUD 4, FINGER RINGS 1, 7990, PRAKASH A V, 88140/-, DROPS & STUD 2, FINGER RINGS 4, NECKLACE 1, 7991, PRAKASH A V, 32739/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 8074, SHANKAR K.L, 14396/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 8102, MOHAN KUMAR G, 26320/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 8107, ARUN KUMAR, 138840/-, CHAIN 1, 8109, RAZIYA SULTHAN, 86174/-, CHAIN 1, FINGER RINGS 1, 8127, MOHAN KUMAR G, 33573/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 8128, MOHAN KUMAR G, 39023/-, CHAIN 1, 8161, JAGADISH K, 107220/-, CHAIN 1, 8186, VASANTHAKUMAR K, 49529/-, NECKLACE 1, 8187, KUMAR H B, 18418/-, BRACELET 1, 8212, SUJATHA, 43721/-, BANGLE 2, 8272, VASANTHAKUMAR, 13317/-, DROPS & STUD 4, 8273, VASANTHAKUMAR, 82768/-, BRACELET 1, FINGER RINGS 2, MATTI 2, 8278, VASANTHAKUMAR, 30534/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 8279, VASANTHAKUMAR, 24692/-, DROPS & STUD 2, STUD 2, 8280, VASANTHAKUMAR, 106790/-, DROPS & STUD 2, NECKLACE 1, 8354, RAGHUNATH S, 103540/-, NECKLACE 1, 8363, BHARATH KUMAR N, 7781/-, BRACELET 1, 8374, VASANTHAKUMAR, 28002/-, DROPS & STUD 2, BANGLE 2, 8383, SHIVALINGANATH A C, 22012/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 8394, YOGESH S, 159826/-, NECKLACE 1, 8413, HARISH, 51369/-, DROPS & STUD 2, FINGER RINGS 3, 8426, VINOD V, 31361/-, FINGER RINGS 2, STUD 2, 8441, MARUTHIESH H, S, 25509/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 10610780000048, PRAVEEN KUMAR H, 17000/-, FINGER RINGS 1, BANGALORE, MARTHAHALLI, 108090700043841, LINGISSETTI SAI RAM, 66690/-, FINGER RINGS 3, 3915, GOVARDHAN REDDY K, 161838/-, CHAIN 1, 3989, M GURU PRASAD, 93587/-, NECKLACE 1, 4051, D SURESH BABU, 200200/-, BABY BANGLES 4, CHAIN 4, 4102, CHANDHAN N, 19794/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 4170, SUNEEL KUMAR REDDY, 39136/-, FINGER RINGS 3, 4273, SRINIDHI M, 18741/-, CHAIN 1, 4310, KAVYA, 8938/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 4325, SHYAM KUMAR, 69040/-, CHAIN 1, 4419, SRINIVAS, 150146/-, BROAD BANGLES 2, 4489, SAGAR S, 4899/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 4492, SYED DADA PAPER, 9892/-, FINGER RINGS 2, 4507, NARASIMHAJI K, 73723/-, DROPS & STUD 6, 4569, NARASIMHAJI K, 81890/-, CHAIN 1, 4577, BHARATHI V, 77033/-, CHAIN 1, DROPS & STUD 2, 4578, BHARATHI V, 77033/-, CHAIN 1, 4581, BHARATHI V, 20026/-, DROPS & STUD 2, 4738, BHARATHI V, 19951/-, MATTI 2, STUD 2, 4763, LEOPRENTS S, 34987/-, CHAIN 1, 5050, K MANJUNATH, 49974/-, NECKLACE 1, 5068, ATHOTANAIL, 100650/-, CHAIN 1, 5102, SANAKA NAKA VENKATA GANESH, 11679/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 5103, SHALINI K, 5823/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 5303, VIDYA KARUNAKARAN, 9997/-, BROAD BANGLES 1, 5542, SATISH C, 70000/-, CHAIN 1, 5682, VITAEKH V, 23000/-, CHAIN 1, 5692, HARISH V, 12000/-, STUD 2, 5702, PALLAGANI VENKATA NAGARAJU, 11000/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 5714, LAKSHMIPATHI N, 35300/-, CHAIN 1, DROPS 2, FINGER RINGS 1, 5731, VEDAVATHI M, 9916/-, STUD 2, 5752, DEEPU M S, 26000/-, FINGER RINGS 2, 6060, MADHUSUDHAN V, 31500/-, BRACELET 1, STUD 2, 6064, DEVARAJU, 65000/-, CHAIN 1, 6072, NAVEEN KUMAR G, 69000/-, CHAIN 1, 6079, RAJESH K, 335000/-, BANGLE 6, 6082, BAMEENAKSHI, 210000/-, CHAIN 1, 6091, C M SANDHYA, 66060/-, CHAIN 1, FINGER RINGS 1, 3, SHANKAR M, 131300/-, BRACELET 1, CHAIN 1, FINGER RINGS 3, 6093, SHANKAR M, 13182/-, CHAIN 1, FINGER RINGS 1, 6104, PATTI KRISHNAIAH, 47865/-, CHAIN 1, 6107, MAHESH N, 8000/-, CHAIN 1, 6109, MADHUSUDHAN, 97000/-, NECKLACE 1, 6114, C MANOJA, 4000/-, LOCKET 1, 6119, ASHOK, 9000/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 6122, MANI, 298298/-, DROPS & STUD 2, NECKLACE 1, 6127, RAMA MOHAN CHEERLA, 71416/-, HANDSETS 1, 6128, RAMA MOHAN CHEERLA, 73899/-, CHAIN 1, 6129, RAVI KUMAR REDDY, 25900/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 6136, VENKATA SIVA KUMAR MAKAM, 27370/-, CHAIN 1, 6139, SUSANTH KUMAR PATRA, 10411/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 6140, JONNALGADDA VENKATASIRINU, 40975/-, NECKLACE 1, 6145, MANJUNATH, 12900/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 6148, LAKSHMI D R, 16506/-, FINGER RINGS 1, 6149, MANJUNATH, 52000/-, CHAIN 1, 6150, SAR

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd



Manika Batra and Archana Kamath tasted their first major success as a pair by winning the women's doubles title at the WTT Contender Lasko in Lasko (Slovenia) on Sunday. The World No 36 pairing beat the 23rd-ranked combine of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz from Puerto Rico 11-3, 11-8, 12-10. The India duo saved four game points in third set.

BACK TO DRAWING BOARD

Time has come for BCCI to look into wider aspects, including embracing different teams for different formats

Curator dies hours ahead of Sunday tie

PTI @ Abu Dhabi

THE Abu Dhabi cricket stadium's Indian chief curator, Mohan Singh, was found dead in his room on Sunday hours before the T20 World Cup game between Afghanistan and New Zealand here. According to UAE Cricket sources, the 45-year-old, who hailed from Uttarakhand, was suffering from depression and was found hanging in his room, hours after inspecting the pitch for the tie that New Zealand won.

Both Abu Dhabi Cricket and the ICC paid tributes to him but did not reveal the cause of death. He is survived by his wife and daughter. Sources in UAE cricket said Mohan was found hanging in his room. "Mohan Singh today came to the ground in the morning and inspected the ground and playing turf. He spoke to us about arrangements and went back. When he didn't arrive at the venue people went to his room and he was found hanging from his ceiling. He died by suicide," said a senior official associated with tournament organisers.

"We have come to know that he was very depressed for the past four months. The reason for it is not known and we don't know if he was undergoing any counselling. Whether it is a death by suicide can only be ascertained once the local police authorities complete their investigations," the source said.

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THE death knell arrived on Sunday evening for India. The T20 World Cup, which they are hosting, will not have a place for them after New Zealand's win over Afghanistan. It sealed the passage of the Black Caps to the semifinals as the second-placed team behind Pakistan in Group II. In reality, though, their campaign was over a week ago when they lost to New Zealand in what was a virtual quarterfinal. The past one week has been about working Net Run Rates and whatnot, just to stay relevant, well aware that they were not going to be the life of the party unless teams above them hit rock bottom.

You don't expect such favours at World Cups. Especially when you have been outplayed by two of the best teams in the group. Had India defeated even one of Pakistan or New Zealand, the story could have been different, but again as was evident in Group I, even four wins were not sufficient for South Africa to go advance to the semifinals. For a team that has favourites tag around their neck in big

events, that they keep coming up short when it matters has done little good. And if anything, it also raises questions: have they learned their lessons from the Oval 2017, Manchester 2019 and Southampton 2021. Such meltdowns with the bat in short periods has proven to be their biggest undoing and one that has ensured Virat Kohli-Ravi Shastri era will end without a global title to show.

For all the dominant performances in Test cricket, it is in white ball that one can say they have not delivered on the expectations, especially when one takes into account their records in bilateral series. Those series beyond a period, slips away from memory and all that comes are these exits.

Going forward, India's incoming white-ball captain and new head coach Rahul Dravid do have work on their hands. There is another T20 World Cup coming in 11 months' time and given the talent pool they have at their disposal, they have everything in them to put together a squad that can lift the title Down Under. But that isn't going to hap-



Jasprit Bumrah | AP

pen unless the team, the support staff, the selectors, and the board introspect the reasons why an ICC title eludes them since 2013.

More than their conservative approach in the T20Is, there needs to be a cultural change in how they go about adapting to three different formats. That is not going to happen unless they

become too radical: having different teams for each format. With the workload and grueling schedule that lies ahead, if India need to have their players fresh at the next World Cup in Australia, they need to look at format-specific players. On the large outfields there, tired players and jaded teams will be found wanting.

"Absolutely," said India's bowling coach Bharat Arun when asked if the time has come



NZ POST WIN TO SEAL LAST-FOUR BERTH

ABU DHABI: NEW ZEALAND reached the Twenty20 World Cup semifinals with a comfortable eight-wicket win over Afghanistan on Sunday, a result that eliminated star-studded India from the tournament. Chasing a modest 125, skipper Kane Williamson (40) and Devon Conway (36) put on an unbeaten stand of 68 to drive the team home in 18.1 overs in Abu Dhabi. The Kiwis join Pakistan as the two teams in the semifinals from Group 2, leaving India's final match against Namibia on Monday a dead rubber. England and Australia have already made the semifinals from Group 1. "It was a strong performance," said Williamson. "We know how dangerous this Afghanistan side is. It was good for us to be able to set the tone with the ball, take wickets early and then keep them to below-par total. 150-155 would have been par." Afghanistan skipper Mohammad Nabi admitted making only 124 was never likely to be enough

Brief scores: Afghanistan 124/8 in 20 ovs (Zadran 73; Boult 3/17) lost to New Zealand 125/2 ovs in 18.2 ovs (Williamson 40 n.o., Conway 36 n.o.).



NZ players celebrate a wicket during their match against Afghanistan | AFP

for having different sets of bowlers for T20s. "Not only the volume of cricket that our country's playing, but also remaining in the bubble and playing. I can guarantee it's not very easy to be in the bubble and keep playing throughout the year. They do need sufficient breaks because I think even mental health is going to be very, very important going forward. And this is going to be the norm for us at least for the next one year or two years. There is enough talent in our country so we can afford to field different teams for different formats. That way also we are understanding the different talent that is available," Arun added.

Right through the past year India have played most of their cricket in bio-secure bubble – with the England tour being the exception – and it is set to continue in the coming months too. Unless one is part of the bubble, it is hard to understand the effect it can have on players, who are expected to perform to their potential in high-pressure situations. Several teams are allowing players the break by putting together different teams and the time has come for India to follow suit too.

IN-FORM PAKISTAN KEEP UP WINNING RUN

SHARJAH: Pakistan kept their winning run intact as they thrashed Scotland by 72 runs in their final Super 12 match. Veteran Shoaib Malik blasted six sixes in an unbeaten 18-ball 54 after Babar Azam's fourth half-century (66) of the tournament as Pakistan posted 189 for four. Scotland started cautiously, scoring 23 of the first five overs, before finishing at 117/6.

Brief scores: Pakistan 189/4 in 20 ovs (Babar 66, Malik 54 n.o., Greaves 2/43) bt Scotland 117/6 in 20 ovs (Berrington 54 n.o.).

ACTION REPLAY

With Group 1 of the Super 12 stage finishing on Saturday, here's a look at some of the more memorable moments...

BUTTLER'S ASSAULT

Much has been made of the sluggish nature of the surfaces and, to be fair, a fair few have struggled. However, one batter who has adapted to the conditions is Jos Buttler. That was visible in his magical takedown of the Sri Lankan bowlers post the drinks break. He finished on an unbeaten 101 off 67. In fact, the English keeper is one of the few openers to have enjoyed moderate success having always reached double digits in the group stages.



ZAMPA, OZ'S TRUMP

An Australian leg spinner doing magic in an ICC World Cup event in 2021?

That's exactly what Adam Zampa has been doing. Their first XI remains undercooked with liabilities but Zampa has acted as sticking plaster with his control. 11 wickets at an economy of 5.7 is one among the best. In hindsight, his 2/21 against South Africa, 2/12 against Sri Lanka and 5/19 against Bangladesh all set the chase for the team. What's more he does match up well against Pakistan's run of right handers so may emerge as a big performer.

WEST INDIES' BLOWOUT

The opening match of the Group 12 stage promised a lot. Yet, it failed to live up to expectations. The defending champions' all or nothing approach was a double-edged sword and so it proved as England bowled them out for under 60. It kind of affected the way Kieron Pollard & Co went about their remaining live games, epitomised by Lendl Simmons' tortoise like approach against South Africa.

PROTEAS' FOUR-IN-FOUR

They came to this tournament in bad shape, dropping in-form players and format specialists. The subsequent furore over Quinton de Kock's refusal to take the knee was an added complication. Yet, they recovered winning four matches and only losing out on NRR. The likes of Rassie van der Dussen, Aiden Markram and Anrich Nortje enhanced their reputation but it was captain Temba Bavuma who emerged as a leader, on and off the pitch.

ASALANKA, SRI LANKA'S FUTURE

The Island Nation, despite the best efforts of Wanindu Hasaranga, struggled to win the big moments. While that ultimately cost them in close games, the emergence of southpaw Charith Asalanka is a genuine positive. He has that swagger about him, like a consistent version of Niroshan Dickwella. He isn't afraid to attack spinners, seems competent against pace and moves through gears. An IPL gig could follow.

231

No of runs Asalanka scored, the second best in the event.

9.75

Hasaranga's bowling average is the best among bowlers who have picked five or more wickets.

13

No of sixes by Buttler, the clear leader.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20

Competition heating up

After three rounds in the group stages of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, title favourites Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Delhi are unbeaten and on course with their title challenge. We look at how the teams are placed in each group and who has the best chance to qualify with two more rounds to go in the group stages.

Elite Group A

Leaders: Tamil Nadu

Defending champions Tamil Nadu are the runaway leaders in the Elite Group A. The Vijay Shankar-led side has won three out of three and looks set to finish top of the group.

Their next fixture is against Goa followed by a showdown against Punjab (Nov 9) who are right on their tails but Tamil Nadu are the team to beat.

Elite Group C

Leaders: Rajasthan

Rajasthan are four points ahead of Andhra and Haryana, who are placed second and third respectively. While the top teams directly go through the quarterfinals, teams finishing second can also make it to the last eight, which will be the target of Andhra and others. Rajasthan go up against Andhra in the next round and if S Bharat's team can cause an upset, then it will lead to an exciting finish within the group.

Elite Group E

Leaders: Delhi

There is very little separating Delhi and Hyderabad as both are on 12 points and the difference in net run rate is also not too big. The fact that these two will come face to face in the next round makes for an enthralling contest. In all likelihood, these two teams will be vying for the top two spots in the group but third-placed Saurashtra are not far behind.

MONDAY'S FIXTURES

Group A: Goa vs Tamil Nadu, Odisha vs Punjab, Maharashtra vs Pondicherry. **Group B:** Baroda vs Karnataka, Chhattisgarh vs Mumbai, Bengal vs Services. **Group C:** Andhra vs Rajasthan, Jharkhand vs Haryana, Himachal Pradesh vs Jammu & Kashmir. **Group D:** Assam vs Kerala, Bihar vs Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat vs Railways. **Group E:** Delhi vs Hyderabad, Chandigarh vs Saurashtra, Uttarakhand vs Uttar Pradesh. **Plate Group:** Mizoram vs Sikkim, Meghalaya vs Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh vs Nagaland, Manipur vs Vidarbha.

Big boost to have Stokes back: Burns

AFP @ Gold Coast

CONFIDENCE is high in the England camp that they can regain the Ashes, with opening batsman Rory Burns saying Sunday the return of the talismanic Ben Stokes has provided a "massive boost" for the squad. England have not enjoyed much Test success in recent months, losing home series to New Zealand and India, and have not held the Ashes since 2015.

But the late inclusion of Stokes, who has not played any cricket since July, has lifted the squad, Burns said.

"It's obviously a massive boost to get Stokesy back in the side," Burns said from the luxury resort on the Gold Coast where England's Test players, who arrived in Australia on Saturday, are serving 14 days in quarantine.

"You know what a good player he is. To get a bloke of his calibre back around our group is a big lift for us."

"It's exciting because we wanted to get out here and have the best side possible and Ben adds to that."

Djokovic captures sixth title in Paris

AFP @ Paris

WORLD NO 1 Novak Djokovic won a sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown on Sunday, beating Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final. The 34-year-old Serbian gained a measure of revenge over his Russian opponent who dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep when he beat him in the US Open final in September.

Victory on Sunday was Djokovic's second record in as many days after he was confirmed as season-ending World No 1 for a seventh time.

In an entertaining contest, befitting a duel between the top



Novak Djokovic rejoices after the final against Daniil Medvedev on Sunday | AFP

two in the world, Djokovic again had to come back from a set down after needing three

sets to defeat Hubert Hurkacz in the semifinals. It was only the second time the top two in

EXPRESS READ

Harika held in Rd 10, slips to joint third place

RIGA (LATVIA): Indian chess ace Dronavalli Harika could not break through the defences of lower-rated German Elisabeth Paetzl in the 10th round to slip to joint third with 6.5 points in the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss chess tournament here. China's Lei Tingjie confirmed her first place in the inaugural Women's Grand Swiss following a draw with the top-seed Mariya Muzychuk.

Bogey free 67 for Tvesa, climbs to ninth spot

KAEC (SAUDI ARABIA): Indian golfer Tvesa Malik strung together a superb bogey free round of 5-under 67 to enter the Top-10 of the Aramco Saudi Ladies International here. Tvesa is now 6-under following rounds of 74-69 on the first two days. She is lying Tied-9th, as World No 7 Lydia Ko produced a scorching round of 63 to claim a four-shot lead on the third day.

Lahiri recovers to stay inside Top-20

PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Anirban Lahiri recovered from a horror start to card one-under 71 in the third round to lie tied 17th at the World Wide Technology golf Championship at Mayakoba here. Lahiri, who shot 67-66 on the first two days, dropped a bogey and a double bogey on the second and third holes but managed to salvage the day with five birdies before a late bogey left a bad taste.

BFI name 12-member team for SABA meet

BENGALURU: The Basketball Federation of India announced a 12-member squad for the upcoming SABA men's Championship, an event which is due to be held from November 15 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Vishesh Bhargava will lead the team in the competition, which comprises of Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal. Veselin Matic is the head coach.

FOOTBALL

West Ham shock Liverpool, Arsenal edge Watford

AFP @ London

WEST HAM beat Liverpool 3-2 in the Premier League on Sunday to deny Jurgen Klopp's side a club record of 26 matches unbeaten in all competitions.

The home side took an early lead courtesy of an own goal by Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker but Trent Alexander-Arnold equalised for the visitors before half time.

Pablo Fornals and Kurt Zouma gave the Hammers a 3-1 lead and they held on to take the three points despite a late goal from Divock Origi.

Earlier, Mikel Arteta celebrated his 100th game as Arse-

nal manager with a 1-0 victory against 10-man Watford on Sunday as the resurgent Gunners climbed to fifth spot. Emile Smith Rowe broke the deadlock in the second half after an inspired performance from Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster had frustrated the hosts, with Juraj Kucka dismissed late on at the Emirates Stadium. The three points mean Arsenal, unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions, leapfrog Brighton and Manchester United. Watford are just two points above the relegation zone after three defeats in four league matches under new boss Claudio Ranieri.

The Gunners last season



West Ham's Kurt Zouma celebrates after scoring his side's 3rd goal against Liverpool on Sunday | AP

failed to qualify for Europe for the first time in 26 years but they are now unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions.

The home side thought they had taken a seventh-minute lead when Bukayo Saka tucked away a loose ball in the area after Foster parried Alexandre Lacazette's chip.

But the goal was disallowed for offside following a VAR check. Arsenal were awarded a penalty when former Tottenham defender Danny Rose rashly thrust his arm into Lacazette's head in the 34th minute. But 38-year-old Foster superbly saved Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's unconvincing spot-kick.

Kucka produced Watford's brightest first-half moment when he dispossessed Albert Sambi Lokonga and saw his shot deflected just wide by Ben White. Foster continued to keep Arsenal at bay, making another sharp save with his foot to deny Gabriel's firm header from a corner shortly before half-time. But Smith Rowe broke the deadlock in the 56th minute, scoring his third goal in as many Premier League games when his strike from the edge of the area ricocheted off Craig Cathcart and into the net.

Results: Arsenal 1-0 Watford; Everton 0-0 Tottenham; Leeds 1-1 Leicester; West Ham 3-2 Liverpool.

INDIA'S SOLAR GEN UP 1,700%

Growth recorded in past 7 years; country also signs deal to change archaic agri practices

World Bank to spend \$25 billion

Among other developments from week one of the COP26 climate summit, the World Bank will commit to spending USD 25 billion in climate finance annually to 2025 through its Climate Action Plan, including a focus on agriculture and food systems. The conclusion of the first week was marked by a massive protest march by environmental activists in Glasgow on Saturday

Keeping 1.5 degree Celsius aim alive

Affirming the goal of keeping global warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, compared to pre-industrial times, is also seen as important for the member nations. With greenhouse gas emissions continuing to rise, host Britain has said it wants the Glasgow talks to "keep 1.5 C alive". One way to achieve that would be to encourage rich polluters to update their emissions-cutting targets every year

CLIMATE

LONDON: India on Sunday told the UN climate summit at Glasgow that its solar energy capacity stands at about 45 gigawatts after it increased 17 times in the last seven years, asserting that although the country represents 17% of the global population, its historical cumulative emissions are only 4%.

India said this while giving a presentation on its third Biennial Update Report (BUR) during the 11th Facilitative Sharing of Views (FSV) on the ongoing COP26 climate summit here. The BUR was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in February.

A year hived off Climate Clock

The reset of a Climate Clock created in 2015 to show how the world is approaching the Paris accord's 1.5 degree Celsius warming target, removed almost a year from the countdown, which means we are now a little more than 10 years away from the threshold.

The Climate Clock is a way to visualize and measure progress towards global climate targets. The date moves closer in time as emissions rise or pushes further back as they decrease. This year's clock reset uses three sets of updated data.

First, new estimates of global temperature increase from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that human greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for virtually all of the observed warming of the climate system.

Second, the Global Carbon Project projects global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2021 will increase by 4.9% from 2020, after a 5.4% drop between 2019 and 2020. Thirdly, the latest estimate of the remaining carbon budget is used. This represents the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions the world can still emit, without exceeding a particular global temperature target.

EXFILE • ARCHAEOLOGY

Pompeii's hidden treasures unearthed

Italian archaeologists on Saturday unearthed the remains of a slave room at a Roman villa in Pompeii, which was destroyed by Mount Vesuvius' eruption nearly 2,000 years ago. The find comes amid increasing challenges mounted by tomb raiders, who pillage the site for artifacts. A look

FAMILY OF THREE

The beds are made of roughly worked wooden planks, which could be adjusted according to the height of the user

The archaeologists say the three inmates were slaves, may be even family

Personal effects like amphorae for private things, ceramic jugs and chamber pot were found

The room was lit by a small upper window with no decoration, just a mark believed to have been left by a lantern hung on a wall

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT

This is a window into the precarious reality of people who rarely appear in historical sources, written almost exclusively by men belonging to the elite, says Gabriel Zuchtriegel, Pompeii Park's director general

The room grants us a rare insight into the daily reality of slaves, thanks to the exceptional state of preservation of the room, buried under ashes, said the archaeological park officials

What happened at Pompeii

A volcano on Mt Vesuvius erupted in 79CE. The first phase was of pumice rain (lapilli) lasting about 18 hours, allowing most inhabitants to escape. That only approximately 1,150 bodies have so far been found at Pompeii site seems to confirm the theory that most inhabitants managed to escape, with some even salvaging their belongings. Many skeletons were found with jewellery, coins and silverware. The entire town was buried under the ashes from the volcano

Pompeii was forgotten for most part of the history, but interest renewed in the 20th century when artifacts from the site started gaining prominence

The excavation is part of a programme launched in 2017 aimed at fighting illegal activity in the area, including tunnel digging to reach artifacts that can be sold on illicit markets

The Villa of Civita Giuliana had been the target of systematic looting for years. There was evidence some of the archaeological heritage in this so-called Slave Room had also been lost to looters

An almost intact ornate Roman chariot was discovered here at the start of this year, and the room discovered on Saturday likely housed slaves charged with maintaining and prepping the chariot

\$2.3 MILLION
Estimated damage by grave robbers to the villa



A relatively intact room used by a family, believed to be slaves, was unearthed at Civita Giuliana. A glance:

16-sq METRE

Area of the room that is a cross between a bedroom and a storeroom

3

Beds, one of which is child sized

8

Large vase-like vessel stashed

1

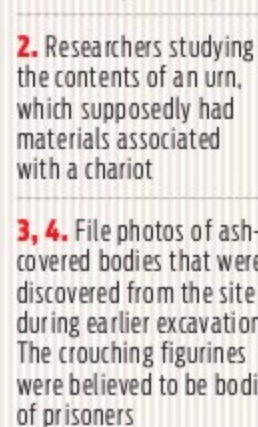
Ceramic pot

1

Wooden chest

3

Horse's remains found in a nearby stable dug up earlier this year



1. The room discovered at Villa of Civita Giuliana, a suburban villa just a few hundred metres from the ancient city of Pompeii

2. Researchers studying the contents of an urn, which supposedly had materials associated with a chariot

3, 4. File photos of ash-covered bodies that were discovered from the site during earlier excavations. The crouching figurines were believed to be bodies of prisoners

Court stays US order on compulsory inoculation

VACCINE

NEW ORLEANS: A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers. The 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that those workers be vaccinated by January 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops Democratic President Joe Biden "from moving forward with his unlawful overreach". "The president will not impose medical procedures on the American people without the checks and balances afforded by the constitution," said a statement from Landry.

Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda said the US Department of Labor is "confident in its legal authority to issue the emergency temporary standard on vaccination and testing". OSHA has the authority "to act quickly in an emergency where the agency finds that workers are subjected to danger", she said.

Such circuit decisions normally apply to states within a district -- Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in this case -- but Landry said the language employed by the judges gave the decision a national scope.

"This is a great victory for the American people out there. Never before has the federal government tried in a such a forceful way to get between the choices of an American citizen and their doctor. To me that's the heart of the entire issue," he said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Convicted cop strikes gold



HISTORY

The largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold coins ever found in England has been discovered in Norfolk, with 131 coins and four other gold objects unearthed in all. Most of the Norfolk artefacts, which date back 1,400 years, were found between 2014-2020 by a single metal detectorist who has asked to remain anonymous. The owner of the land on which the gold was found has also requested anonymity to ward off prospectors. However, 10 of the coins were found by a second detectorist, David Cocker, who failed to report his discovery as required and tried to sell them for £15,000. Mr Cocker, 54, was an active police officer — but was dismissed from his position after admitting to theft and being sentenced in 2017 to 16 months in prison.

Parasite turns fly into zombie



STUDY

A creepy species of parasitic fungus turns flies into 'zombie' necrophiles by emitting a powerful chemical aphrodisiac, a new study shows. Researchers in Denmark have found the fungus species, *Entomophthora muscae*, releases a potent mix of fungal compounds once it's fatally infected a female housefly. Healthy male houseflies respond to the intriguing mix of chemical compounds by mating with the dead zombie female, ensuring the fungus' spread. After *E. muscae* infects houseflies, it penetrates their skin, grows spores throughout their body, digests their guts and kills them in five to seven days. The fungus infects both male and female houseflies, but the new study, focused on the effect of female infection.



VINTAGE CHARM

Participants in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run drive through a village in southeast London on Sunday | AP

Scientists dig up Genghis Khan's lost city without spadework

ARCHAEOLOGY

THE capital city of the Mongolian Empire, Karakorum, was 'much larger than previously thought,' according to archaeologists who have mapped the ancient metropolis for the first time. Founded by Genghis Khan's son, Ögödei, in the 13th century CE, the scope of the city has been revealed thanks to experts from the University of Bonn in Germany.

They were able to map the road layouts, neighbourhoods and details of the ancient city without digging up the surrounding landscape thanks to advanced geophysics. The work has given historians a deeper insight into what happened to the capital city of the largest contiguous empire, which had fallen into ruin by the 15th century CE. They found the remains of walls and gates mentioned in the historic record, as well as a city beyond the walls extended out as far as 1.8 miles along approaching roads.

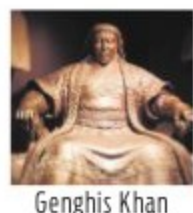
Inside the walls the city spanned an area half a square mile, with palaces, regions of the city for industrial and residential purposes, as well as older

areas. However, the team found the biggest single feature of Karakorum was nothing, with 40 per cent of the area within the walls left empty.

Professor Jan Bemmman, study lead, found that the Mongolian city, first rediscovered in 1889, stretched far beyond its walls. "We arrive at a profound re-evaluation of this important city, which underlines its eminent place in Mongolian and Eurasian history," said Professor Bemmman. It was founded by Ögödei, son and successor of Chinggis, who is more commonly known as Genghis Khan, as a permanent home for the massive empire. It was built up on the site of one of the hoarding empire's camps in the 13th century CE, with most of its construction completed under the reign of Möngke Khan.

Franciscan friar William of Rubruck, who was an envoy of King Louis IX of France and visited the city in the 13th century, described it as an 'enclosed city with four gates'.

He wrote that it was thriving and home to Chinese artisans, Muslim merchants and captives from all over the empire.



Genghis Khan

BOOMERANG USE ZINGS BACK 400 YEARS

RESEARCH

BOOMERANGS were famously used by indigenous Australians for hunting animals like kangaroos and emus. Now, researchers in South Australia show one particular collection was also used for fighting, digging, fire management and even in ceremonies. The scientists used radio-carbon dating to learn more about the rare collection of sticks, comprising four complete boomerangs and one fragment.

They were recovered from Cooper Creek, near the town of Innamincka in South Australia's far north-east. The study, led by Flinders University in South Australia and

published in Australian Archaeology, showed the items had 'a diverse past'.

The oldest Australian boomerangs used by native peoples are over 10,000 years old, although these ones are around 380 years old at the very most.

"This range of activities goes well beyond the stereotype of the returning boomerang known to most Australians," said study author Dr Daryl Wesley at Flinders University.

Boomerangs have two 'wings' that are spun powerfully around a centre of gravity. They're famous for their ability to return to the thrower, thanks to a quirk of aerodynamics.

However, the boomerangs in

this collection are all non-returning boomerangs, which tend to be larger and heavier than returning boomerangs.

Queensland Museum explains: "A common misconception is that all boomerangs are returning types. In fact most of the Aboriginal hunting and war boomerangs are designed to travel only in the direction thrown."

The four boomerangs and one wooden fragment were discovered in the creek bed during drought conditions in 2017 and 2018 by Jason Litherland from National Parks and Wildlife South Australia and Kathryn Litherland, a traditional owner. Results of radio-carbon dating revealed that the boomerangs range in age from approximately 1650 to 1830 CE.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

EXPRESS CONNECTS

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Haripriya in and as Thayi Kasthoor Gandhi

PG 4



DAY'S DIARY

Demonitisation

On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes would not be used starting midnight

WHY THIS MOVE?

Addressing the nation he said the move was essential in the fight against black money. People were given limited time to deposit their old notes at banks or post office



THE AFTERMATH

The late-night announcement took the country by surprise and had people across the board queuing up at ATMs and banks thereafter. The poor and unbanked were hit hard



A SUCCESS INDEED

While it may have been considered an economic failure, demonitisation was a political success. Four states that went to poll soon after supported the move despite having suffered because of it

STYLING OF A STAR

Tamil actor Suriya's film *Jai Bhim* has been grabbing eyeballs for its content and costumes. Meet the Bengaluru-based designer who worked on Suriya's courtroom look in the film



Suriya in *Soorai Pottru*

ANILA KURIAN

If there's a film that's caught the attention of people world-over in the last few days, it's been T.J. Gnanavel's directorial *Jai Bhim*. While the story has appealed and interested several, many have been curious about the look that lead actor Suriya sports. Interestingly, Suriya's courtroom look in the film, that released on an OTT platform last week, has been created by Bengaluru-based menswear designer Bassam Osman.

Osman, who has a studio — Studio Bas — in Chennai, in addition to one on Cunningham Road in the city, worked on the outfit for the Tamil star on the double. "We had to complete it within four days. We have a studio in Nungambakkam, Chennai, and we've been designing looks for Tamil actors over the years. In fact, I've been creating outfits

for Suriya since his first film, *Kaakha Kaakha*, which released in 2003," says Osman.

For *Jai Bhim*, the designer and team were given a short brief, the outfit was required for the courtroom scene.

"We weren't told the name of the movie... All we knew was that it had to be a courtroom look. In the past, we had designed the courtroom look for Ajit Kumar's *Nerkonda Paarvai*, the remake of Amitabh Bachchan's film *Pink*. Having said that, the looks weren't exactly the same either," he says, adding, "In a film set, there's always a costume designer, but having an external person with a new perspective to create a look for the hero/heroine gives the film's costume designer the time to work on other stuff. That's where we come in."

The crisp white shirt and black jacket, the posters of which have gone viral, is what Osman's team worked on. Before this, he also designed the

outfits for Suriya in *Soorai Pottru*. "If you look at it, Tamil actors tend to style themselves like their Bollywood counterparts. For example, Ajit Kumar dresses like Amitabh Bachchan and Suriya as Shah Rukh Khan. The roles they mostly choose to play have a structured and formal look to them," says Osman.

On the other hand, he finds Sandalwood actors to prefer streetwear, jeans and hoodies. "That's mostly mass-produced which can be purchased at any commercial store," feels Osman.

Having worked on several films, the designer is used to working in a deadline-driven environment. "We're so used to being approached for a short delivery but it's still very hectic. For *Jai Bhim*, we were given four days. Even though we did just a few outfits, we had to make multiple ones... that's how we do it for any film. Our team ends up pulling all-nighters to make the final product," says Osman, who also designed the crisp white shirt for Dhanush when he won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for *Asuran*.

Osman has been creating Suriya's looks for several years, but each time he tries to do the different and challenge himself. "It's a great opportunity. When we were approached to design Suriya's look in *Ghajini*, we were told he was going to be a business tycoon.

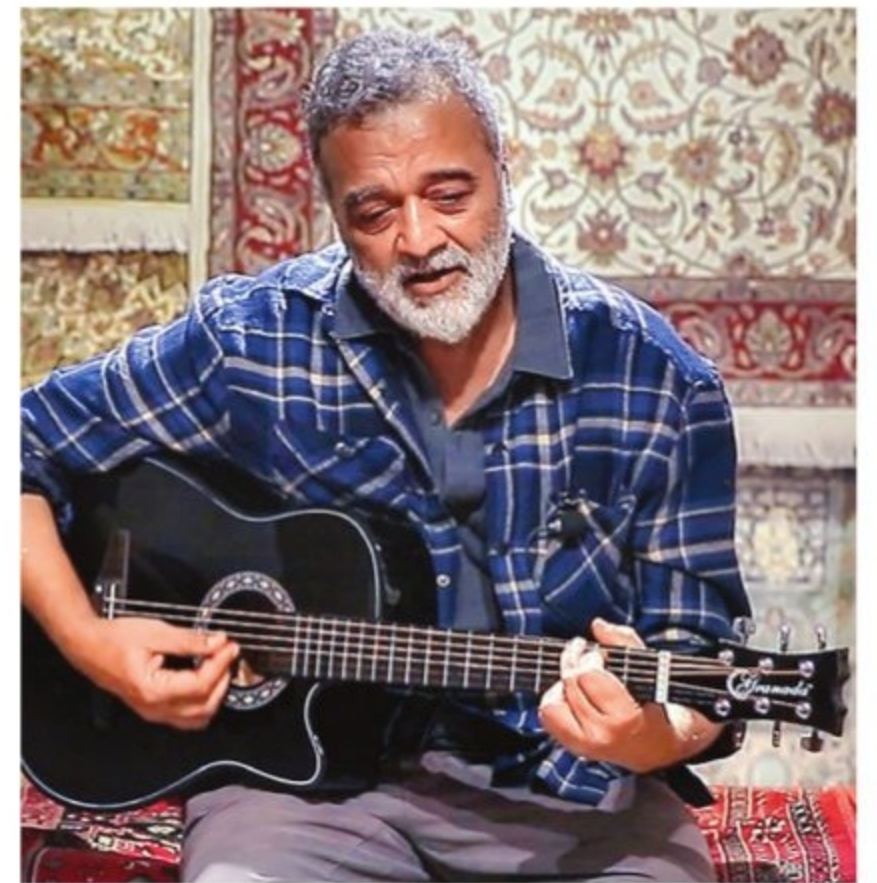
That's when we explored the vest, buttoned-down shirt and rolled-up sleeves that became popular. Then again, it's the film's costume designer who gives us the design approach and we get to choose the fabric and material to play around with," says Osman. In fact, Suriya's wife and actor Jyothika also frequents Osman's brother's studio in Chennai for customised sarees. "It's the personalised touch we add to their outfits for both films and awards that has kept this equation going," he says.



I've been creating outfits for Suriya since his first film *Kaakha Kaakha*. For *Jai Bhim*, we had four days to create multiple versions of the outfit and my team pulled off all-nighters to finish the look

Bassam Osman, designer

OF CARPETS, CONVERSATIONS AND CROONING



It was an evening filled with soulful music and good conversations as popular Bollywood singer Lucky Ali unveiled Carpet Kingdom's latest creation, a pure silk carpet which took five years to make.

WATCH LIST

THE TIME IT TAKES

Streaming: Netflix

When a delicate relationship comes to an end, Lina stops thinking about Nico and their memories to focus on herself. During the 10 episodes of the series, she will be thinking a minute less about the past and will be a minute more in the present, giving a new dimension to the expression, time heals all wounds.

Cast: Nadia de Santiago, Moussa Echarif, Nico Romero



TAXI DRIVER (KOREAN)

Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

With an increasing craze towards Korean dramas, here's one that can quench your desire for a thrilling K-series. Saddened by the fact that Doki was unable to protect his mother from being murdered, he joins a taxi company that secretly avenges victims who were not protected by the law. The series explores how Doki navigates the justice system and uncovers the harsh reality of law.

Cast: Lee Jehoon, Esom, Kim Euisung

NARCOS: MEXICO, SEASON 3 (SPANISH)

Streaming: Netflix

The drug cartel is back and so is the cat and mouse chase of the criminals and cops. *Narcos: Mexico Season 3* takes you through the journey of the most dreaded drug trafficker, Amado Carrillo Fuentes. As the drug lords go upbeat on seizing power and making tonnes of money, there is more it to than meets the eye. In other words as the cops fear 'this could be beginning of something dangerous'.

Cast: Scoot McNairy, Jose Maria Yazpik, Alberto Ammann

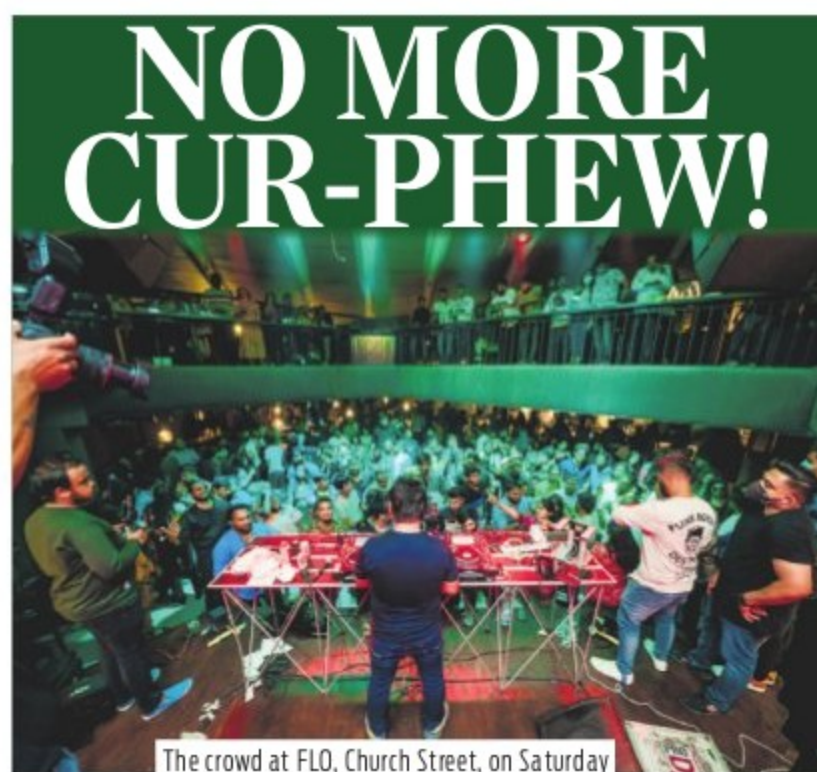
EXPRESS FEATURES

THE hospitality industry, which has suffered a great blow owing to the pandemic and consequent lockdowns, is finally heaving a sigh of relief. The night curfew, which was put in place in April, in the midst of the second wave of Covid-19, has finally been lifted.

"It's like a Deepavali gift from the state government to us. We have been waiting for this. We get lot of walk-ins for dinner so it's really relieving to hear this," says Suraj Shetty, owner, Mahesh Lunch home

According to Nirav Rajani, partner at Patios and Hanoi, their dinner sales have shot up in the last three days since the curfew has been lifted. "We are now looking at reaching our pre-Covid sales by this December and hope it sticks this time," he says.

In fact, restaurants seem to be experiencing a high footfall in the last three months, with a 20 per cent increase in business week-on-week. "We are expecting this number to go up significantly now that the night curfew has been lifted. The removal is definitely a



The crowd at FLO, Church Street, on Saturday

move in the right direction as Indians culturally eat out late and most restaurants make 80 per cent of their total business during dinner time. With the earlier curfew, dinner time business was next to zero. We are hoping this also yields in added employment in the sector as an additional shift would come into play,"

says Hitesh Tulsani, operations manager of Raahi Neo Kitchen and Bar.

Agrees Abhishek Reddy, owner, Otto's Restobar. "The return of nightlife is a good sign for the struggling hospitality industry as everyone is eyeing pre-Covid sales targets. We want to start a new chapter. Even the public is eager to get



Abhishek Reddy



Uday Shankar Shenoy



Hitesh Tulsani

back to partying like pre-pandemic times," he says. Owner and chef Uday Shankar Shenoy, Lazy Suzy, the removal of night curfew restrictions is definitely a morale booster for the industry and public alike. "Now, people will think of going out to dine in the evenings without the scare of not reaching home before the deadline. This will also mean the restaurants need to be careful and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour," he says.

Ajith GS, co-founder — FLO, Church Street can't wait for their patrons to get

grooving. "It's relieving to hear about the Covid cases coming down to lowest possible numbers," he says. Although Chowman Hospitality had quite a good number of orders coming in every day, dine-in sales were not as per their expectations because of the restrictions during the peak hours. "Now that the curfew is lifted, restaurateurs are all geared up for a new beginning," says Debadiya Chaudhury, managing director of the chain.



Debadiya Chaudhury

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



SEIZE THE CLAY

Learn hand-building and wheel-throwing through this pottery workshop at Lahe Lahe. You can either opt for a single class or continue as sessions. **When:** Nov 10 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com



STAR ACTING

Learn acting from National Award winner and Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal. Join Anupama Chopra for a live interactive session on Zoom as he shares his acting secrets. **When:** Nov 9 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



HELLO SUNSHINE

Look forwards to Sunday Unplugged with C'est la vie at Hard Rock Cafe and celebrate the day with sunny tunes. **When:** Nov 14 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



MEAL TIME

Maheesh Lunch Home offers fish meals, chicken meals, prawn meals and veg meals for lunch. The restaurant is an ideal place for seafood lovers. **When:** Ongoing **Details:** 080 431 1102

CATCH COMEDIAN **ANUBHAV SINGH BAASI** TELL HONEST STORIES ABOUT HIS CAREER CHOICES AND LIFESTYLE | **WHEN:** TILL NOV 17 | **DETAILS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM



HELLO CARNIVAL

Sunday Soul Sante is back again with musical performances, independent brands and start-ups showcasing their talents. **When:** Nov 14 **Where:** Jayamahal Palace Hotel



Cycling Challenge

If you're interested in cycling or running, here's a virtual challenge to participate in. Select any cycling distance and complete the challenge. **When:** Till Nov 30 **Details:** townscript.com



Unwind with poetry

Join Bolava Vitthal, an evening of Abhangs, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. The concert will feature renowned vocalists Ranjani Gayatri and Jayateerth Mevundi. **When:** Nov 12 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Funny Side Up

Laugh out loud with comedian Inder Sahani as he performs for Ab Hai Apki Bari, a stand-up solo special. He'll be performing in multiple locations. **When:** Nov 21-22 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Modern Dating

The Bangalore video speed dating event is designed as a 90-second date, ideal for recently single, new-in-town or have-been single and ready-to-mingle Bengalureans. **When:** Nov 12 **Details:** eventbrite.com

Wall Art

Revamp your gifting style with wall arts from Arte Venue. These art works can be customised to reflect your personal taste and style. **Available at:** artevenue.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com



MATAR KA NIMONA

INGREDIENTS

- Coriander leaves (with stems): A bunch
- Ginger, green chillies & whole red chillies: As per preference
- Fresh green peas: 400 g
- Potatoes: 2-3
- Mustard oil: 2 tbsp
- Cumin seeds ■ Bay leaf
- Asafoetida: a pinch
- Garam masala: 1 tsp

METHOD

- Grind coriander leaves, ginger and green chillies.
- Grind shelled fresh peas. Take mustard oil, diced potatoes in a pan. Add cumin seeds, asafoetida, whole red chillies and bay leaf.
- Add the green paste and fry for 2-3 minutes. Then, add peas and cook for a few minutes, while stirring it in between.
- Add sliced tomatoes/puree and cook till mushy. Add turmeric powder, littlered chili and mix well.
- Add fried potatoes, some boiled peas, salt, garam masala and water. Cover and cook for few minutes on slow heat.

—Alpana Kesari, Mumbai

FIT BIT

BENVASANA

(BENU BIRD POSE)

This is a kneeling forward bend that has a close resemblance to Parighasana. It stretches the hips, inner thighs, hamstrings, lower back, and abdominal muscles along with opening the shoulders and the chest. It stimulates the Muladhara (Root) Chakra. Benu is the mythological sun bird of ancient Egypt, which symbolises creation and rebirth. It is said to be a self-created being. This pose represents the bird just beginning to take off, opening its wings, right after its creation.

STEPS

- Start in Vajrasana (Thunderbolt Pose). Inhale, extend the left leg towards the side, in line with the hips and place the foot, pressing the toes and the balls firmly on the ground.
- While exhaling, balance and shift the right hips a bit to avoid too much pressure on the right ankle.
- Inhale, stretch the arms towards the side at shoulder level, parallel to the ground, with palms facing down.
- Exhale, extend the arms left up to the tips of the fingers. Inhale, lift the torso upwards, simultaneously pull the belly in and come in a forward bend, lifting from the hips.
- Stretching the spine forward, come parallel to the ground with the chest and shoulders, and throw the arms outwards and backwards.
- Inhale, roll the shoulders blades back, and take the hands back.
- When the right foot rests on the toes and balls, push the right knee down and raise the hips away from the heels. Then, bring slow deep breaths to stay in balance.
- Exhale to stretch the arms out and torso down, stretching the neck and gently looking up. Stay here for about 3-4 breaths, initially.
- Inhaling, slowly raise the chest, abdomen, hips and back to Vajrasana.

BENEFITS

- Stretches muscles while strengthening the spine, hips, ankles, shoulders.
- Builds endurance and energises the body.
- Improves internal balance.
- Has a direct impact on the internal organs, including the functioning of the heart, with the chest and shoulder opening.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from an injury to the ankles, knees, hips, hamstrings, pelvic floor muscles, shoulders, lower back, neck, rib cage, surgery to the joints, internal organs, or ligaments, herniated disc, or severe back pain should avoid this.
- Senior citizens, pregnant and menstruating women must avoid this.
- Those suffering from migraine, vertigo, blood pressure should consult a yoga expert.

—by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



SOUND BOARD

CULTURE CHAOS: STORIES OF AN INDIAN ABROAD

This is a podcast about life abroad, trying to make sense out of different cultural norms and a whole new way of living — Isha Soni's confusions and the stories that arise from this chaos while she tries to hold on to my culture, identity and life as she knows it. **On Gaana**

OUR LAST WEEK

This podcast is hosted by neuro-science researcher and physicist Anuvab Pal and world renowned philosopher Kunal Roy Kapur. They come together to create an event horizon that looks at the black hole of human existence with a gravitational lens trained specifically on the human week that just went by. **On Spotify**

MAED IN INDIA

Maed in India - India's first indie music podcast that showcases the best Indian independent musicians from India and abroad. Each episode presents an interview with an artist/band along with an exclusive stripped down session or acoustic renditions of their original music. **On Gaana**

INDIAN NOIR

Indian Noir is a critically acclaimed podcast voiced by Nitesh Murali featuring thrilling crime and horror audio stories set in India, featuring Indian characters. **On Spotify**

THE PASSION PEOPLE PODCAST

The Passion People Podcast is a series of impromptu conversations about following a passion, making it manifest, and what all comes with it. Hosted by Naga Subramanya and Thoughts on how to deal with listening to your heart and some examples to guide us forward. **On Spotify**

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

GADIBIDI ALIYA

When an arrogant young woman frames a poor canteen owner and gets him arrested, he decides to teach her a lesson. **Cast:** Shiva Rajkumar, Malashri, Mohini

DODDANNA PARVA

Sagar, a singer-turned-alcoholic, decides to mend his ways and rekindle his passion after falling in love with Suma. However, all hell breaks loose when she does not turn up for his concert. **Cast:** Vishnuvardhan, Naveen Mayur, Radha Ravi

ROJA KRISHNA

Pooja is secretly in love with Krishna, who works for a television channel. However, things take a turn when Krishna's ex-lover enters his life again. **Cast:** Sharmila Mandre, Pooja Gandhi, Avinash, Vinaya Prasad

VASANTHA GEETHA

Vasantha, an ordinary insurance agent, and Geetha, an arrogant woman, get married after fighting initially. However, the ensuing marital issues due to class differences soon drive them apart. **Cast:** Rajkumar, Puneeth Rajkumar, KS Ashwath, Srinivasa Murthy



Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS



1 THE CREATIVE POWER OF YOUR INTUITION BY BOZOMA SAINT JOHN

Great ideas are like electricity -- they snap into sharp focus and sprint from place to place. What's the best way to capture them? Bozoma Saint John, chief marketing officer at Netflix, makes a compelling case to move away from an overreliance on data when making big decisions -- and calls on us all to tap into the power of our intuition.



2 A TAILORED HISTORY OF WHO WEARS WHAT — AND WHY BY RICHARD THOMPSON FORD

From puffy trousers to pantsuits and everything in between, law professor and author Richard Thompson Ford takes us on a fascinating tour through the history of fashion and the evolution of dress codes that still influence style today.



3 A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO MAINTAINING LIFE-SAVING VACCINES BY NITHYA RAMANATHAN

Illustrating the realities of (and threats to) global vaccine supply chains, technologist Nithya Ramanathan describes how smart sensors placed in fridges that store medical supplies can provide crucial, real-time data and ensure people get the life-saving care they need.



4 HOW TO MAKE RADICAL CLIMATE ACTION THE NEW NORMAL BY AL GORE

A net-zero future is possible, but first we need to flip a mental switch to truly understand that we can stop the climate crisis if we try, says Nobel laureate Al Gore. He shares examples of extreme climate events, identifies the man-made systems holding us back from progress and invites us all to join the movement for climate justice.



5 3 RULES TO HELP YOU BUILD A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS BY JULISSA PRADO

Have an idea you're yearning to turn into a business? Julissa Prado, founder and CEO of Rizo's Curls, explains how she was inspired by the Latino and immigrant communities she grew up in — and shares 3 principles that guide her in her work.

REGIONAL



GABHRICHA PAUS (Marathi)

Translated to 'The Damned Rain' in Marathi, this film encompasses the unremarkable lives of a farmer family, dependent on the rain, yet resilient in pursuit. Based on drought-stricken Vidarbha region, the film involves the theme of farmer suicides at its core. **Cast:** Girish Kulkarni, Sonali Kulkarni **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar



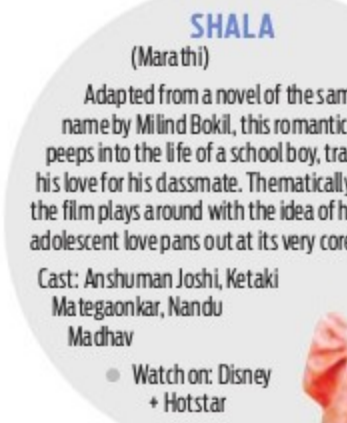
MEHANDI CIRCUS (Tamil)

Mehandi Circus is a romantic drama that revolves around Jeeva, who runs an audio cassette store and Mehandi, a performer in the circus who are in love with each other. **Cast:** Mathampatti Rangarajan, Shweta Tripathi **Watch on:** Netflix



SARA'S (Malayalam)

Sara's starts with a simple question. So what if a girl doesn't want to have a child, and is it weird if she decides it as early in her school days? **Cast:** Anna Ben, Sunny Wayne **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



SHALA (Marathi)

Adapted from a novel of the same name by Milind Bokil, this romantic-drama, peeps into the life of a school boy, tracing his love for his classmate. Thematically, the film plays around with the idea of how adolescent love pans out at its very core. **Cast:** Anshuman Joshi, Ketaki Mathegaonkar, Nandu Madhav **Watch on:** Disney + Hotstar



THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN (Malayalam)

It's about women's sexuality, religion, patriarchy, culture, expired beliefs, and the most important facet — the raw ugly truth. All these elements are woven together into the story of a housewife, who has been newly wedded through an arranged matrimony. **Cast:** Nimisha Sajayan & Suraj Venjaramoodu **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with internet connection.

RATHNAN PRAPANCHA (Kannada)

Self-made man Dhruv and social media star Anya fall in love and decide to marry. Just one problem — he's an orphan. The only solution — make a fake family. **Cast:** Dhananjay, Reba Monica John, Umashree **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



MAANAGARAM (Tamil)

Four youngsters arrive in a big city and their lives become interlinked. **Cast:** Sri, Sundeeep Krishan, Regina Cassandra **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



FOREIGN

MADRES (Spanish)

Expecting their first child, a Mexican-American couple move to a migrant farming community in 1970s California where strange symptoms and terrifying visions threaten their new family. **Cast:** Ariana Guerra, Tenoch Huerta, Elpidia Carrillo, Kerry Cahill **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



BIRDY (English)

The film follows the story of two young men who are seriously affected by the Vietnam war. One of them has always been obsessed with birds — but now believes he really is a bird, and has been sent to a mental hospital. **Cast:** Matthew Modine and Nicolas Cage **Watch on:** Netflix



THE GIRL WITH A BRACELET (French)

At 16 years old, Lise is accused of murdering her best friend. As the trial starts, her parents stand right by her side. But once her secret life is revealed in court, the truth becomes indistinguishable. **Cast:** Roschdy Zem, Chiara Mastroianni, Melisa Guers **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



BLUE JAY (English)

Former high school sweethearts Jim and Amanda run into each other at a grocery store back in their alpine hometown of Crestline, Calif after being out of touch for more than 20 years. **Cast:** Mark Duplass, Sarah Paulson **Watch on:** Netflix

NOW STREAMING

Disney+ Hotstar: ₹ 399 per month
Sony Liv: ₹ 299 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Mubi: ₹ 499 per month

Syed Sultan Ahmed, edupreneur and filmmaker, who recently won the National Award for his film – which was presented by Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu – takes *CE* through its making

SANATH PRASAD

LEVEN years ago when Syed Sultan Ahmed, founder and chief learner at LXL Ideas, an education community, came up with his first educational short film for kids, little did he know that his vision for imparting knowledge to students through edutainment films would put him in an award-winning streak. Now, Ahmed is no stranger to awards. He recently bagged his seventh National Award for the film *Apples and Oranges* in the 'Best Education Film' category, which was presented to him by vice president of India, M Venkaiah Naidu. Directed by Rukshana Tabassum, *Apples and Oranges* is set in a fantasy world called 'Fruitistan' where two sets of people, apples and oranges, don't gel with each other.

"Having won so many awards, the benchmark is now

very high. After reading the script of *Apples and Oranges*, I did feel that we were going to bag an award because it sheds light on an important topic of overcoming differences in society. We still segregate people based on language, colour, religion and the film focuses on achieving unity by ironing out differences," says Ahmed.

Interestingly, Ahmed is also an ardent biker. His journey from Bengaluru to Mumbai or his rides to Ladakh are a source of inspiration. "During my bike journeys, I come across children working in shops, struggling to attend school. A lot of my films have featured this, shedding light on the struggles of rural children. My biking has got me closer to situations and my films represent experiences that have shaped me," says Ahmed.

Ahmed's vision to transform the education system began right from his college days. "When it wasn't very common to set up a startup in the early 2000s, I went ahead and did it.



That is how I started LXL Ideas. I started my career by visiting various schools in Bengaluru and started workshops on life skills," says Ahmed. Although he wanted to work with more schools, he lacked the recognition. Which is why he began what is touted to be one of the biggest fests for kids, Wizkids,

a photography, drawing, cooking for students. "I wanted to take the trend of life skills to more schools but I lacked the popularity. With Wizkids I was able to reach students in Rachni, Jamshepur and Patna," says Ahmed.

As India struggles to find a robust education system,

Ahmed wants his three-year-old daughter to adopt different means to learning. "My wife and I are clear that, as parents, we are going to give her a lot of exposure. I would love for her to live in multiple cultures, communities and spend time in different countries and learn the social dynamics of differ-



Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu presenting Syed Sultan Ahmed (extreme right) with the award recently

ent societies," says Ahmed, who is now gearing up for the launch of Saudi Arabia's first-ever children's film festival next month. "I will be curating the festival in one of the most conservative countries in the world. It is an attempt to help the authorities there look at films from an education point of view and a medium of expression... and not just from a religious point of view," says Ahmed. So, what keeps him going? "I don't strive for excellence, but just being true to what I do," he signs off.



After reading the script of *'Apples and Oranges'*, I felt that we were going to bag an award because it shed light on an important topic of overcoming differences in society. We still segregate people based on language, colour, religion

- Syed Sultan Ahmed, founder LXL Ideas



A must-play for true Marvel fans



ARE YOU GAME?

Anusha Ganapathi

@quofies

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

In terms of the gameplay experience, Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy is not something that we have never seen in the action-adventure game for mat. Guns go pew-pew, and there are way too many enemies — the usual spread. And as the game starts, it does little to make you feel included: with all-American references and excessive sci-fi jargon. However, 15 hours and when the game is almost done, the Marvel-indifferent gamer will find themselves apologising for how wrong they were. GotG has the best story in an action-adventure game I've played all year!

GotG uses the linearity of its gameplay to good advantage. It provides opportunity for character dialogues to be creepily sentient. Rocket (the pyrotechnic raccoon) holds a grudge against Peter the whole game, as revenge for the one time he accidentally offended him. Dialogue choices have consequences in team per-

formance in combat through the "Rally" option. The plot varies so vastly based on the aggregation of choices that Peter makes, underscoring the power of communication throughout the game. Simultaneously, it is hard to tune out of the cutscenes: Peter Quill's upbeat attitude makes it awfully hard to get bored of conversation in the game. Every member of the Guardians has their idiosyncratic attitudes, that their stories keep us engaged throughout.

With no real understanding of Marvel lore, I was quite clueless about the origins of Star-Lord's (aka Peter Quill's) superpower. He had jet boots



to make him fly, and a flashy pair of guns. Couldn't anyone do what he does with the right equipment? But now, I am convinced that Star-Lord's real superpower is being an amazing DJ. He is the king of space parties, rallying his team by playing awesome music. His seashanty is ever-green '80s rock. There's nothing that numbs the repetition of non-substance combat like great music does. The excellent music choices alone, more than anything else, had me powering through the combat sequences in the game.

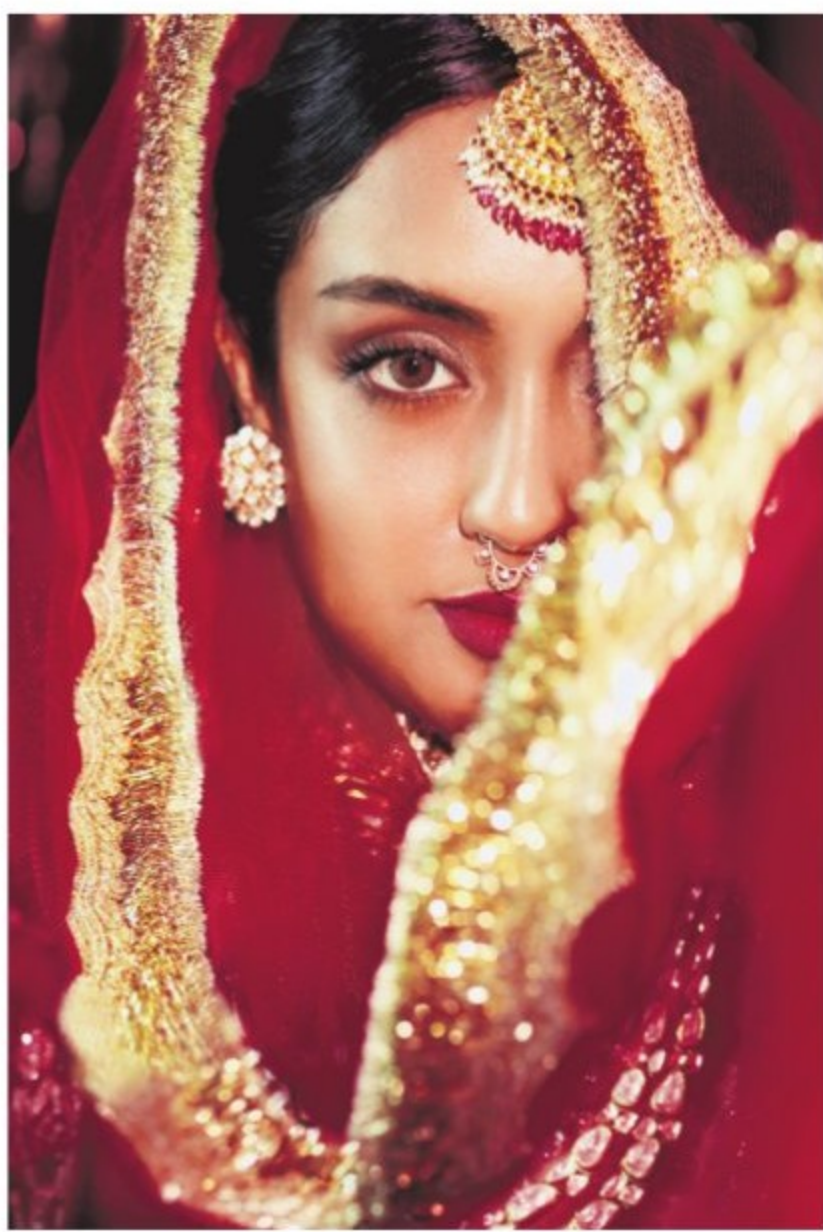
This is not to say that combat in GotG is lacklustre. The combat upgrades and ending moves are fun and fights keep evolving as new moves get added through the game. It's just that, it isn't something spectacularly new for an AAA title, and the game has more redeeming factors that take the spotlight. GotG is a must-play for the already-converted Marvel fan. For the potential Marvel universe enthusiast, GotG is the best way to consume this complicated sci-fi universe. The game released last week and is available across consoles — PS, Xbox, Nintendo, PC.

BRIDE SIDE



The wedding season is here and so you must keep in mind the essential requirements for a bride if you are one. Let us see what the ultimate must-haves this wedding season are. The season saddles along with it a whole set of preparations, venues, invitations, outfits, food, music and what not. It doesn't usually take a lot for a girl to go from a bride to a bridezilla. With so many things to worry about, one is bound to crumble under pressure. Fear not! Here is a list of must-haves in your trousseau.

■ A bride and thereafter the bridesmaids have many functions and parties to prepare for throughout the wedding festivities — the outfit, make-up, hair and much more. And if a single thing goes wrong, it can turn into a nightmare. So the first must-have is a hairstyling tool in your wedding trousseau. Something that takes care of all your



PIC: MANISH MALHOTRA BY MYGLAMM



PAIRED WITH PANACHE

Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

hairstyling woes, with advanced technology. ■ Facial skin products, especially basic CTM (Cleansing,

Toning and Moisturising), are essential to take care of your skin. The sheet masks are the go-to option for their efficacy... with no tantrums when it comes to application. These skincare products could also be a part of the wedding essentials for your bridesmaids. Chaitanya Nallan, co-founder & CEO at SkinKraft Laboratories, says, "With beauty and personal care gift boxes, you are not only giving something special, you are also giving your loved ones an opportunity to try a wide variety of prod-

ucts they have to offer."

■ Body grooming is essential for any bride-to-be and her vanity kit must include body butter, exfoliating body scrubs, moisturising body lotion, and soaps as per her skin type. Furthermore, the latest addition to these are 'Armpit Mask' that takes care of lingering body odour and reduces stubborn deodorant stains, allowing the skin to finally breathe. Given the shift in consumer focus towards transparent beauty, and belief in the efficacy of clean and transparent beauty, new-age brides are choosing honest body-grooming products. Dr Liza Merin Jacob, director & co-founder of Green And Beige, says, "Green And Beige was founded after extensive research and experimenting, to create products that are harmless to humans and the planet. Our formulations aid consumers in tackling their hair, skin and body care needs while cementing their trust in clean and honest beauty."

■ Finally, and most importantly, glam makeup is the most integral part of a bride's vanity bag and it should be such that it celebrates brides in their original spirit and emotions that emanate their individuality. Steering clear of trends, a bride's makeup must take pride in legacies of sacred reds, plush peaches and scintillating golds. "My bridal edit is an amalgamation of the moods and emotions of the brides. Over the years of creating their dream outfits and interacting with them, I inadvertently got drawn into those intriguing memories and decided to capture it all — from their enthusiasm and joy, there are a myriad of emotions and sentiments that are so heart-warming yet unsettling before she turns the page onto her new chapter," says Manish Malhotra, about the Nooraniyat Collection, MyGlam.

CITY READ

Four-day meditation music festival held in the city recently

Pyramid Music Meditation Academy hosted a four-day music meditation festival at its premises. The festival explored the science of meditation through music and pyramid energy, through the practice of Anapanasati meditation, enabled by classical music. About 30 artists from across the country performed at the festival. On the first day of the event, a music group led by Brahmarshi Patriji kicked started the festival. Trained in Hindustani music, Siddhartha Belamannu was the first to perform. This was followed by a concert by UV Nagalakshmi, who was accompanied by Sai Vamshi on the mridangam. A devotional concert by Swapna Ashok, who was accompanied by other musicians, was also held. The festival aimed at conducting meditation sessions across the globe, creating spiritual science songs, creating music for meditation, conducting music meditation festivals and creating videos and shortfilms on awareness of spiritual science.

ON A MISSION

STRUGGLING TO NORMALISE DRAG ART

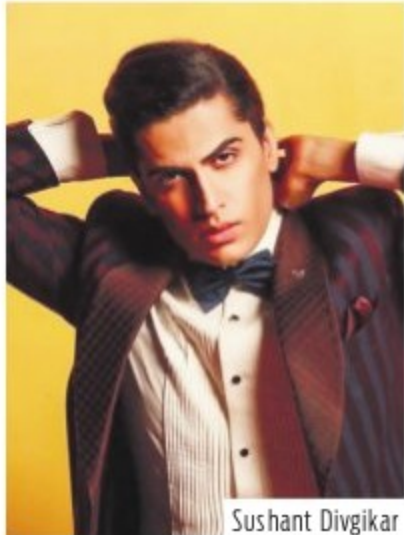
Sushant Divgikar, who was crowned Mr Gay India in 2014 and entered *Bigg Boss* season 8 as a contestant, has been struggling to normalise drag art. He has been helping the artistes and children of the community lead a respectable life, apart from urging the general public to embrace their talent

people do drag is killing the art. Anybody can perform this art-form regardless of their gender and identity. The sole purpose of the art is to meet the other side of one's personality, which we all have. Every performing artiste wears makeup to look a

certain way. It's part of the performance value. For instance, tawafis were given a special place in a king's courts and were seen as artistes. They were talented singers and dancers, but today we know them as sex workers or trans-genders," they say.

Divgikar has been struggling to normalise drag art. "No artiste intends to hurt age-old sentiments. We simply want to celebrate harmony and appreciate diversity. We don't believe in dividing societies," they say.

Divgikar's claim to fame is when he was crowned Mr Gay India in 2014 and entered *Bigg Boss* season 8 as a contestant.



Sushant Divgikar

the Queen is that the people have stopped celebrating the country's culture.

"The notion that only queer

Art for art's sake

MAYANK TIWARI

SUSHANT Divgikar is a person of multiple talents and roles. A model, actor, singer, psychologist, motivational speaker, pageant director, video jockey and drag queen in the avatar of 'RANI Ko-HE-Nur', they speak to *CE* about breaking the stigma that envelopes drag culture in the country and the city.

RANI Ko-HE-Nur is full of grace, believes in diversity, defies discrimination and sings like a bird at moments to spread

charm. "I don't understand why people have an indifferent attitude towards drag culture in the country. For aeons, men have donned the roles of women and performed before audiences as actors, folk artistes, classical dancers and even goddesses," says the Queen.

"Men dressing and acting like women is deeply rooted in our culture, but we never called it drag. I thank the West for naming and mainstreaming it as this gives the artistes respect. Now it's a multidisciplinary art form," they say. What upsets



Sushant as RANI Ko-HE-Nur

The notion that only queer people do drag is killing the art. Anybody can perform this artform regardless of their gender and identity. The sole purpose of the art is to meet the other side of one's personality, which we all have

Sushant Divgikar

